The EMS™

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Emsworth Residents Forum
Community Newspaper

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A Town Council for Emsworth?

Local government reform means that Havant Borough Council and Hampshire County Council will be abolished by 2028. It is likely that Emsworth will then become part of a Greater Portsmouth unitary authority of about 500,000 people. Emsworth Residents Forum (ERF) believes the best way to make sure local services meet the needs of local residents will be by becoming a Town/Parish Council. The Forum feels strongly that it is for residents to be fully involved in this discussion. Hence the ERF will work closely with residents to gauge the interest in Emsworth becoming a Town/Parish Council.

Across England there are over 10,000 Town/Parish councils, supported by around 100,000 councillors investing about £2 billion into local communities. Many of them can trace their history back to 1895 when the current system of District Councils was created. Town and parish councils are independent, directly elected, and often non-political. They reflect the specific needs of local residents by championing services, protecting community assets, and preserving the unique character of their area.

A Parish/Town Council will have a paid Clerk to carry out administrative roles and a number of volunteer elected councillors, who usually sit as Independents. Parish/Town Councils' responsibilities may include such areas as allotments, village greens, community halls, public benches, recreation grounds, bus shelters etc.

Town Councils help preserve the unique character of their area

Parish/Town councils are statutory consultees on planning applications. (The ERF currently has this status) Councils must have a minimum of five elected councillors and hold meetings, which are open to the public, at least four times a year. Elections are held every four years.

Parish/Town Councils are funded by a precept (surcharge) upon the Council Tax. The average precept in England is £85.88 per year.

(Editor. *See link below for more information about the role of Parish/Town councils) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parish_council_(England*)

Dwyn Stepien, Chair of the Forum, says:

"We're encouraging Emsworth residents to sign the petition for a town council. It's a chance to shape how local services are run and make sure your voice is heard. Creating a town council is the best way to improve local facilities like playing fields and sports pavilions, and to protect our lively town centre. With new developments like the Southleigh Site, Emsworth needs a strong voice for its residents. We should act now to secure the best future for our town while decisions about local government are being made."

Emsworth Residents Forum launches a petition to find out if residents are in favour of creating a town council

The petition follows the ERF annual meeting on 5 June 2025 when members voted for a programme of consultation with residents and, if there is a positive response from more than 7.5% of the Emsworth electorate, to request a community governance review from Havant Borough Council (see P 31).

Don't Delay. Sign the Petition for a Town Council Today

Emsworth Residents Forum (ERF) urges everyone to support the creation of a Town Council by signing the petition (see P 3) If enough residents sign the petition, the Borough Council must launch a formal review. This would include wide public consultation and could lead to elections for a new Town Council as early as May 2027.

Public Meeting: A Town Council for Emsworth?

Come join us for an important community workshop on Monday, 21 July 2025

7:00 pm (refreshments from 6.30pm)

Emsworth Baptist Church

Led by the Hampshire Association of Local Councils, this session will explore what a town council could mean for Emsworth. We will discuss how it could operate.

Let's shape Emsworth's future—together

Development

Long Copse Lane is saved?

In an unexpected turn of events planning application APP/21/00893 for 210 houses at Long Copse Lane was withdrawn on 23 June by developers, Land and Partners.

The application was submitted back in August 2021 and consisted of 261 documents which were lodged on the HBC planning portal. Over 650 people objected to the application which appears to have become grounded back in early 2024 when the last documents were posted.

Long Copse Lane will remain in the Havant Local Plan as a potential development site and it is possible that another developer may try to take this site forward. Land & Partners were asked to comment by The Ems.

Emsworth Councillor Grainne Rason (Green) stated:
I join our residents in saying that to see this application withdrawn is potentially good news (and that it does not mean something worse is in the pipeline)

Lulu Bowerman HCC Councillor for Emsworth & St Faiths said:
Having campaigned against this application with Richard Kennett for years when we were at HBC, I was pleased to see that the outline planning application has been withdrawn by Land and Partners . However, unfortunately the land is still a named site in the draft Local Plan and unless it is withdrawn from this an alternative developer could submit another application to HBC in the future.

Editor: *The Ems has strongly supported the Save Long Copse Lane campaign over the last 4 years. In every edition we have devoted at least ¼ of a page to this movement.*

Council says no to 5 houses at Long Copse Lane

It was a double delight for local residents when planning application APP/24/00987 for 5 houses at Long Copse Lane was refused.

Statement by Save Long Copse Lane Group

The promoters of the larger of the two LCL sites have withdrawn their application to build 210 houses. This is promising news but the site remains in the Draft Local Plan despite the objections of over 650 residents and local councillors.

The newly formed council recognises for the first time that it is simply not possible to meet government-imposed targets. Proposing 260 houses in LCL that do not contribute to the identified housing need seems perverse. The plan states there is a need for 17,840 dwellings over the plan period to 2044. The Long Copse Lane sites only represents 1.46% of this total.

The LCL sites are arguably the most heavily constrained and least sustainable green field sites in the Borough. (This is clear from Key Features listed for LCL in the plan). Additionally there does not appear to a clear way forward on sewage concerns and other matters that relate to pollution in the harbour.

The council claim that they wish the Borough to be a good place to live, but for Emsworth building 260 in LCL will bring serious negatives and little benefit; not just pressure on schools and medical services but also

increases in the already growing traffic hazards and congestion.

We hope that comments received during the consultation will allow officers to conclude that LCL is an unsuitable location, but we must continue our campaign and will keep you aware of any changes that emerge following the consultation. You can help by lobbying councillors, stressing that excluding the LCL sites is in everyone's best interest. As part of the coalition Emsworth councillors can promote the case for the exclusion of the LCL sites and for it to be removed when there is a vote on the plan.

For the latest information please sign up for our emails. Just send your name and email address to info@savelongcopselane.org.uk.

Andrew Hunnibal
Save Longcopse Lane group

One Church gets approval to build a new meeting hall

Planning application 25/00792/FUL has been approved by Chichester DC for One Church (formerly known as New Life Church). The church wishes to demolish the existing church meeting hall and temporary reception structure and replace it with a new church hall building, landscaping car parking and associated works. (Variation of condition 2 of permission 22/02787/FUL - installation of 50 no. photo voltaic (PV) panels on the roof). One Church, Main Road, Southbourne.

More planning applications for the Launchpad School

Planning application APP/25/00249 has been submitted to Havant BC for the proposed conversion (and associated works) of 2.5 storey hotel* (Class C1) building to form a charitable educational facility (Class F1(a)). Construction of a two-storey 'Real World Learning' building (replacing currently permitted 2-storey café Ref: APP/23/00249). Construction of single storey educational 'pods' (Class F1(a)).

APP/25/00250 Listed Building Consent for proposed conversion (and associated works) of 2.5 storey hotel* (Class C1) building to form a charitable educational facility (Class F1(a)) including construction of rear porch; internal alterations (removal of non-original internal partitions and formation of new internal partitions); fenestration changes and general repair works. North Street House, 6 North Street, Emsworth, PO10 7DD.

** The former doctors' surgery was granted planning permission in 2023 to become a hotel, but this was never taken forward.*

Hairdresser gets permission to build home studio

Planning application APP/25/00028 for a home studio to be used as a Hair salon at 33 St James Road has been approved.

Under consideration

At the time of going to press the following planning applications were still be considered:

APP/24/01010 Business Park at Interbridges East, New Brighton Road

APP/25/00147 Parcel locker outside Co-op in High St.

Havant Local Plan roadshow visits Emsworth

On Thursday 15 May Havant BC staff facilitated an exhibition/ consultation on the proposed Havant Local Plan. This was one of a series of events which were held throughout the Borough. Havant has to produce a local plan and try to appease government housing targets. The plan puts forward development sites, the largest of which is Southleigh (which is in Havant St Faith's ward) This is the area west of Horndean Road, south of Bartons Road, North of the A27 Emsworth Bypass and east of Denvilles. The proposed sites in Emsworth ward are: Long Copse Lane (see above) and Coldharbour Farm (currently under development for Vivid Homes)

www.havant.gov.uk/localplan

Bloor Homes to build 2000 houses at Southleigh site

Local residents and the ERF were surprised to receive an invitation at very short notice to a consultation event by Bloor Homes which was held on Friday 13 June at Emsworth Baptist Church and on Saturday 14 June at Stride Centre, Denvilles. The flyer, which was sent to some homes, included a map which shows that the intention is to completely fill in with houses the gap between Havant and Emsworth.

www.bloorsouthleigh.co.uk

a map shows that the intention is to completely fill in with houses the gap between Havant and Emsworth

The event in Emsworth was well attended with Bloor filling the hall with several display panels highlighting the proposed development. Bloor do not intend to build a spine road to link the estate to the A27. Their information indicated that all traffic would feed out of the estate onto Eastleigh Road and Southleigh Road. They estimate that the proposed 2000 houses will lead to an extra 3000 cars using local roads.

Please Sign the Petition for a Town Council in Emsworth

Emsworth Residents Forum (ERF) is inviting all residents to support the creation of a Town Council by signing our petition. Once we reach 1,000 signatures, we'll request that Havant Borough Council launch a formal Community Governance Review. This will involve public consultation, and if there's evidence of support, elections for Emsworth's own town council could be held as soon as May 2027.

A town council would preserve local representation and identity, ensuring that decisions affecting our community are made by and for local people.

Our town centre, full of character and independent shops, remains a valued hub. But like all high streets, it needs ongoing support.

Why now is the time for a Town Council in Emsworth

Creating a town council would be the next step for the Emsworth Residents Forum. While the ERF would continue to operate and publish The Ems, the new council would have decision-making powers, elected councillors, and paid officers to deliver meaningful action for our town. Emsworth Town Council would seek to have a central location easy for residents to access, providing a gateway to the new unitary authority.

It may have a small team of staff working to support its elected local town councillors. The council could manage amenities such as parks, public buildings and organise local events as well as supporting community safety, youth and environmental initiatives. Every pound raised in Emsworth would be directly re-invested in Emsworth.

In recent years, Emsworth has experienced the visible decline of key local assets—our recreation grounds, pavilions, and town centre have been overlooked and underfunded. Without action, these spaces risk further deterioration.

A Town Council could change this. With its own funding powers, it could seek grants and partnerships, raise revenue through better use of facilities, and collaborate with sports clubs and local groups to reinvigorate our community spaces. It would have the authority and the focus to put Emsworth first.

Town Council discussion meeting

Our town centre, full of character and independent shops, remains a valued hub. But like all high streets, it needs ongoing support. A town council could organise events such as Christmas celebrations and local festivals, boosting trade and community spirit. It could also champion a Cultural Calendar, bringing regular events and new energy into Emsworth's social life.

A key concern is the Southleigh development (see P 2) which could have a significant impact on our roads. A town council would ensure Emsworth has a strong voice in these decisions, especially the need for a link road and investment of developer contributions where they matter most.

With sweeping changes to local government on the horizon, with fewer local councillors and less say in local decisions, now is the time to secure Emsworth's future. A town council would preserve local representation and identity, ensuring that decisions affecting our community are made by and for local people. It does mean additional funding being raised from each household in Emsworth (Parish Council average precept is £85.88 a year or £1.65 per week), and this comes at a time when costs are increasing for all. But by raising this funding, it will be possible to bring in additional grants and funds, as well as preserve and improve facilities for all the community. It's time to shape Emsworth's future.

Dwyn Stepien, Chair of the ERF, introduces the meeting

What to do next

Please sign the petition today - scan the QR code or visit: https://emsworthresidentsforum.org.uk/a-town-council-for-emsworth/ or complete the form below and return it to Emsworth Community Centre

David S Unsplash

What does this petition do: If more YES votes than NO votes, to request Havant Borough Council to start a Community Governance Review to consult on the need for a Town Council.

Who can sign: Only residents registered on the electoral roll.

What happens with your information: Your details will be shared with Havant Borough Council to confirm you are an Emsworth resident. It will not be shared with anyone else.

Completed forms to be posted through the letterbox at the Emsworth Community Centre (behind the Fire Station on North Street).

Petition for an Emsworth Town Council

Do you want Emsworth to have its own Town Council?	**YES / NO**
Please provide your full name:	
Please provide your postcode:	
Please provide your house number and street name:	

Council News

Havant

Changes to Havant Borough Council's cabinet announced

At the Havant Borough Council Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 14 May the Leader, Councillor Phil Munday announced changes to the Cabinet, along with some new responsibilities.

The new Cabinet positions are as follows:

- Councillor Phil Munday (Labour) - Leader of Havant Borough Council, also responsible for Corporate Strategy, Performance and External Relations
- Councillor Philippa Gray (Lib-Dem) - Deputy Leader and Cabinet lead for Finance and Governance
- Councillor Grainne Rason (Green) – Cabinet lead for Climate Emergency, Environment and Water Quality
- Councillor Amy Redsull (Labour) - Cabinet lead for Housing
- Councillor Netty Shepherd (Green) - Cabinet lead for Commercial
- Councillor Gillian Harris (Labour) - Cabinet lead for Regeneration and Communities
- Councillor Richard Brown (Labour) - Cabinet lead for Planning and Enforcement
- Councillor Antonia Harrison (Lib-Dem) - Cabinet lead for Community Assets

The changes incorporated the welcoming of Councillor Harrison in a new role as Cabinet lead for Community Assets and Councillor Shepherd to the role of Cabinet lead for Commercial. This follows Councillor Paul Gray's decision to step down from his role on cabinet. (see below)

The current make up of Havant BC is:

- Labour 10
- Conservative 12
- Lib-Dems 5
- Green 5
- Reform 2
- Independents 2

Since the May 2024 elections Cllr Lloyd (Stakes) has switched from Conservative to Independent, Cllr Hulls (Hayling West) has moved from Lib-Dems to Green and Cllr Gray from Lib-Dems to Independent.

Havant BC to take Environmental Services in house from 2028

Text supplied by BBC Local News Partnership

The most important decision the council will make this year, costing taxpayers in Havant over £7 million, has been reviewed behind closed doors. The future delivery of Havant Borough Council's environmental services was reviewed at a meeting of the Havant Borough Council overview and scrutiny panel on 22 May. Currently, waste collection, street cleaning, and grounds maintenance are provided by Norse South East, a joint venture company between Havant Borough Council and Norse Commercial Services Ltd, a subsidiary of Norse Group, who are owned by Norfolk CC.

The council needs to decide how and when the Norse SE services, budgeted at £7.923 million for 2025/26, transition to an in-house service model. The council said the service needs to be more agile and any changes, even the preferred option of bringing the services in-house, will take two years to implement. The council will then have more control over the delivery of services that will align better with the council's priorities by 1 April 2028.

After the meeting, a statement from the council said the panel considered and agreed the proposed recommendations to extend the current service agreement with Norse SE for a period of two years. This, the statement said, would ensure the continued delivery of service, while a smooth transition to the in-house service model is undertaken. The current service agreement is due to end on 31 March 2026.

A business case also said all staff and assets would be transferred to the council from Norse 'in the event of a termination', or to an alternative service delivery provider. There will be a reduction in costs from Norse SE from this year's £7.923 million while bringing the service in-house. Norse SE proposed an annual fee of £7.362 million for year one (2026/27) and £7.579 million for year two (2027/28).

The report said transiting costs totalling £600,000 will be covered by the £900,000 savings from the Norse SE contract over the next two years. A £38,757 shortfall to pay for all fleet operational costs is required for the 2025/26 budget to be approved by cabinet.

Havant Borough Council welcomes new Mayor at Annual Council Meeting

At the Annual meeting of Havant Borough Council, Councillor Munazza Faiz was elected as Mayor of Havant Borough for 2025/26. The Mayoral Chain was presented by Councillor Peter Wade, past Mayor of Havant for 2024/25, who gave a speech and offered his congratulations to Cllr Faiz on her new role. Her chosen charities are Stop Domestic Abuse and Off the Record

You can follow the Mayor of Havant on social media via the Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/MayorOfHavant/

To find out more about the role of Mayor, invite them to your event or donate to the chosen charities, please visit https://www.havant.gov.uk/our-organisation/councillors-and-committees/mayor-borough

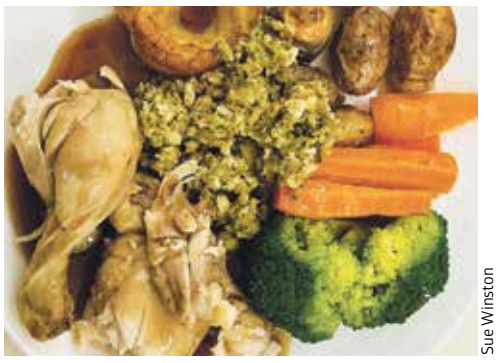
Havant agrees introduction of weekly food waste

Havant Borough Council will introduce a new weekly food waste kerbside collection service for households across the borough, starting in Spring next year.

The decision follows Central Government's changes to the Environmental Act 2021, to reduce food waste, improve recycling rates, and help tackle climate change.

The roll out of a food waste collection service will begin from 31 March 2026, with the assistance of grant funding of more than £1.2m from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), with the addition of extra funding being awarded.

The introduction of a borough-wide separate



Sue Winston

The roll out of a food waste collection service will begin from 31 March 2026

food waste collection service will help to reduce waste by around 25%, with the food waste being recycled into fertiliser and biogas for generating energy.

The types of food waste that will be collected separately will include:

- food scraps including eggshells
- cooked or raw meat and fish, including bones
- bread, rice and pasta
- teabags and coffee grounds
- fruit and vegetables

Introducing weekly kerbside collections of food waste will help reduce the chance of food decomposing and becoming attractive to pests.

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beginners welcome

History of Local Government in Emsworth (1895 - 2025)

The current system of local government goes back to 1895 when District and Parish Councils were first created. Prior to that there were local committees which oversaw areas such as roads, schools, drainage etc. It was in 1895 that Warblington Council was established and in 1900 the Town Hall (now the museum) was built. Havant had its own council. In 1932 Havant expanded its borders and Warblington Council was absorbed into Havant and Waterloo Urban District Council. Up until 1932 Emsworth was run from the Town Hall in North Street which now houses the museum and fire station. In 1932 the Emsworth Ratepayers Association was formed to represent the interests of local residents as Emsworth did not have a Parish Council.

In 1973 there was widespread local government reorganisation which led to the creation of a two tier system of County Councils and Borough/District Councils. Emsworth now came under Hampshire County Council and the newly constituted Havant Borough Council. The nationwide reorganisation of local government had been envisaged by the 1969 Redcliffe-Maud report. This was commissioned by the Labour government of 1964 -1970 but when the Conservatives won the 1970 General Election they rejected most of its findings. The Redcliffe-Maud report advocated the creation of large unitary authorities and regional committees. The proposals are similar to what the current Labour government is advocating today with strategic authorities and large unitary councils.

In 1990 the Emsworth Ratepayers Association changed its name to Emsworth Residents Association (ERA) to reflect the abolition of rates and its replacement with the short lived Community Charge (poll tax) which eventually became the Council Tax. In 1997 there was more local government reform with the creation of Unitary Councils such as Portsmouth and Southampton. In January 2023 the ERA merged with Emsworth Forum to become Emsworth Residents Forum (ERF).

The above system has served Emsworth well for 130 years but the changes that the government is pushing forward would mean that Emsworth by 2028 will be part of a greater Portsmouth authority with over 500,000 population. This is why the ERF is putting forward the idea of a Parish/Town Council to represent Emsworth and possibly run certain services. The ERF would continue as a charitable organisation which would work closely with the Parish/Town Council and continue to publish The Ems.

Up until 1932 Emsworth was run from the Town Hall in North Street which now houses the museum and fire station.

Chichester

Council starts to prepare for local government reorganisation

Chichester District Council has made some changes to the way its senior management team will work. Its current Director of Corporate Services, John Ward, has been made Chief Operating Officer. He will take on the day-to-day management of the council to enable the Chief Executive, Diane Shepherd, to focus on preparing the council for local government reorganisation. She will retire on 31 March 2027, after 40 years of working in local government. John Ward will then become the Head of Paid Service and will lead the council through the shadow year, before it joins the new unitary authority.

The government has stated that it wants all areas of the country to have unitary councils, with each serving an average of 500,000 residents. This is likely to result in the creation of one or two unitary councils within West Sussex. This would mean all of the existing councils moving into the new unitary councils. Each area has until 26 September this year to submit detailed proposals. In Sussex, the timeline is for the unitary authorities to be ready in shadow form in 2027, and for the new councils to come into effect in 2028.

People can find out more about devolution and local government reorganisation by visiting: www.chichester.gov.uk/devolution

Hampshire County Council reviews early options for simpler, stronger, secure councils of the future

Hampshire County Council is assessing four potential options for local government across Hampshire and the Solent as it closes in on identifying the best way of delivering simpler, stronger and secure councils in the future under Government plans to shake up councils across the country.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) sees the Government requiring all two-tier council areas in the country being replaced by single-tier unitary authorities which deliver all services in their area. Under the Government's plans, the 15 councils currently covering the Hampshire and the Solent area, would cease to exist by 2028 (Hampshire County Council, 11 district / borough councils, Southampton and Portsmouth unitary councils, and Isle of Wight Council), and instead be replaced by fewer unitary councils.

The four options are listed below:

Option 1
- North: Basingstoke and Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, New Forest, Rushmoor, Test Valley, Winchester
- South: Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth, Southampton
- Isle of Wight

Option 2
- North: Basingstoke and Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, Rushmoor, Test Valley, Winchester
- South-West: Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton
- South-East: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth
- Isle of Wight

Option 3
- North: Basingstoke and Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, Rushmoor, Winchester
- South-West: Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton, Test Valley
- South-East: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth
- Isle of Wight

Option 4
- North-East: Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor
- Central: Test Valley, Winchester, East Hampshire
- South-West: Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton
- South-East: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth
- Isle of Wight

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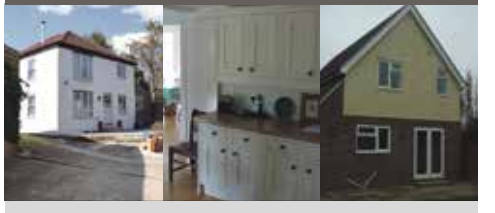

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Community

Dementia Friendly Emsworth

Words by Dr Theo Schofield OBE, Chairman, Friends of Emsworth Community Health

Dementia Friendly Emsworth is a group, supported by the Friends of Emsworth Community Health (FECH), which aims to foster and publicise accessible activities and support for people living with dementia.

There are three activities which take place each month in Emsworth - Singing for the Mind, Dementia Friendly Gardening, and Dementia Croquet - which are all very friendly, welcoming and enjoyable, and free to attend, but due to time constraints they do not provide opportunities for information sharing or individual support. Details can be found at www.rightathome.co.uk/havant, or by ringing Right at Home on 02393 878777.

There is also the Anna Cafe run by Lizzie Davidson from the Warblington with Emsworth Parish, at 12.30pm on the third Monday of each month at St James Parish Hall, which is well attended. There are drop in groups at the Sports and Social Club too.

However these activities alone cannot meet the scale of the problem. Emsworth Surgery has over 100 patients with a diagnosis of dementia, and comparisons with national figures suggest that there are actually many more people in Emsworth who may welcome more support.

S Godfrey

We have been having discussions with Sage House, which is a charity based in Tangmere on the far side of Chichester, opened in 2018. It provides a full range of dementia services, including personalised advice and emotional support, wellbeing activities, and personal care. They now support over 3,300 people a year.

They are also developing Community Outreach Projects and the nearest is a group in Southbourne. They would also like to extend their reach to Emsworth, and run a group here, alternating monthly with Southbourne, and we are now looking to find a suitable venue to start in the Autumn.

An important part of their offer is Wayfinding, which is ongoing, personalised advice for people at every stage of their dementia journey. This week they are taking delivery of their Wayfaring Bus, which will enable them to reach out further into the community, and we are planning for it to visit Emsworth soon.

We believe that this will be a game changer for people living with dementia in Emsworth, and that our next challenge is to let people know when it is available. The Practice and the Primary Care Network can play a big part, and the Health Alliance has created a Health and Wellbeing Directory, www.emsvalleyhealthdirectory.org. We are also inviting people who are in contact with the community to become 'Community Connectors' who can help to raise awareness of what is available.

We also have a Facebook page, Dementia Friendly Emsworth, and an Email address, dementiafriendlyemsworth@gmail.com. We have adopted the data protection policy developed by Emsworth Good Neigbours so that any information about you is totally confidential. Please get in contact and let us know how we can help, and we will let you know when Sage House reaches Emsworth.

Emsworth Surgery has over 100 patients with a diagnosis of dementia, there are many more who may welcome more support

FatFace Foundation Volunteers Enjoy Day of Adventure at Cobnor

Cobnor Activities Centre Trust (CACT) recently welcomed 20 volunteers from the FatFace Foundation for a fun and active Volunteer Day to mark National Volunteers Week 2025. The day included sailing, archery, bushcraft and a BBQ lunch, celebrating both the volunteers' commitment and the Foundation's ongoing support of Cobnor's Young Helms programme. The FatFace Foundation has pledged £30,000 over the next three years, ensuring the programme is funded through to 2027. Young Helms provides half-day keelboat sailing experiences and hot lunches to 200 disadvantaged young people in the local area. Beneficiaries include Together Our Community, MOTIV8, Sight Support Worthing and pupils from local SEND and secondary schools.

Caroline Fisk, Education Lead at CACT, said: "We believe everyone deserves the chance to enjoy time on the water. Our mission is to help young people grow in confidence through shared outdoor adventure."

Lydia Grinham, Store Manager at the FatFace Foundation, added: "We simply couldn't run the Foundation store without our 20+ volunteers. This year they've donated over 3,000 hours — worth more than £30,000. It felt fitting to celebrate that with Cobnor and announce our new partnership."

Cobnor and the FatFace Foundation look forward to continuing their work together to open up new opportunities for young people across the region.

For more information, visit www.cobnor.com or contact caroline@cobnor.com.

RNLI coffee morning

The RNLI Spring Coffee Morning on Saturday 26 April 2025 was a great success. The Emsworth and Havant Branch raised £832.14 on the day. Thank you to the many members of the public for your very generous donations. We are also very grateful for the generous donations from Tesco, to support our fundraising for the RNLI. The support of Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club, who provide us with the use of the lovely facilities, is very much appreciated.

Emsworth and Havant RNLI Branch Quay Sale Saturday 9 August 2025.

The Emsworth and Havant Branch will be holding a Quay Sale on Saturday 9 August 2025. The location of the Quay Sale is at the bottom of South Street including within Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club. The event is 9.30am to 2pm. There will be stalls including RNLI souvenirs, home produce, 'nearly new' and boat jumble. Coffee, tea and cake will be available from 9.45am to 11.45am.

RNLI 200th Anniversary

Emsworth Textile Artists have created an embroidery to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the RNLI. It measures 138 cm by 74 cm (4'6" by 2'6") and is in the style of the D-Day embroidery at Portsmouth D-Day Museum. Each artist was responsible for a section of the embroidery which was created over a period of 6 months in 2024. The artists are all experienced sailors who belong to local sailing clubs. The embroidery will be offered to the RNLI with the intention that it will gain a wider audience and be used for fundraising and publicising the historical achievements of the RNLI in saving lives.

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Maximum of 8 people in class

Please contact: **Melissa Robinson** (Chartered Physiotherapist)
melissa.robinson@astilbe.co.uk
Or text to: **07977 466924**

Local MP Alan Mak hosts successful 4th annual Havant Constituency Health & Wellbeing Fair at Emsworth Baptist Church

The Fair brought together more than 30 local health bodies, charities, community organisations and businesses to offer information and advice about physical and mental health. Visitors were able to chat to a range of exhibitors that included Hayling & Emsworth Primary Care Network, Friends of Emsworth Community Health, Havant Talking News and Age Concern Hampshire. Also attending were representatives of Emsworth U3A, Emsworth Flower Club, Havant Macular Support Group and Ems Valley Memorial Arboretum.

Christine Knights, chair of Emsworth Flower Club, said: "The Fair is good for us as it brings us to the attention of people in Emsworth and beyond. Flowers and gardening are so therapeutic. You just lose yourself and it's very good for your wellbeing." The club, which holds workshops and demonstrations, meets on the fourth Friday of most months and is keen to attract new members. Christine added: "The club brings together like-minded people and our members really enjoy themselves."

The Health & Wellbeing Fair has been an annual fixture ever since Mr Mak launched it following the COVID-19 pandemic. He said: "The Fair was a great success and I'd like to thank all the exhibitors and all the visitors who came to look around on a very hot day. I hope you found the information and advice available useful." Attention now turns to Mr Mak's 10th annual Jobs, Apprenticeships and Careers Fair at Bedhampton Community Centre on 19 September from 10am-noon.

'The Fair is good for us as it brings us to the attention of people in Emsworth and beyond. Flowers and gardening are so therapeutic.'

Christine Knight, Emsworth Flower Club

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Exciting fun day out for young carers

Vicki King on behalf of Southbourne Lions

We were lucky enough at the end of May to have near perfect weather for an exciting fun day out at the Christian Youth Enterprises (CYE) activities centre at Cobnor, Bosham. Southbourne Lions were able to provide the funding through generous donations from our community to give 14 of these deserving young people a chance to spend time with their peers and try new and exciting activities.

In the morning the wonderful staff at CYE provided training, safety equipment and a safe environment for the young carers to try their hand at archery, but of an unconventional kind, where the arrows are tipped with a large piece of thick foam. Two teams then fought by firing at each other from a distance and had a brilliant time. Picnic lunch was enjoyed on the CYE's moored boat along the Bosham channel.

After donning waterproofs and lifejackets, amid much excitement, the group took off for the afternoon with sailing instructors in two long boats. One of the Young Carers commented that he felt so lucky to be able to have a go at archery and sailing.

Young carers have a go at archery

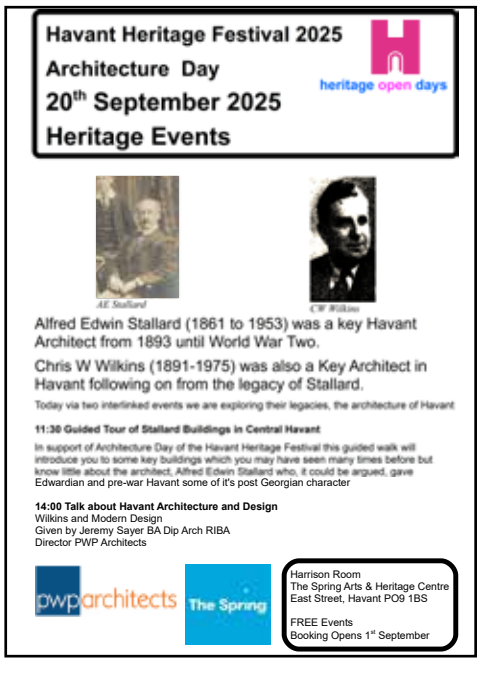
September means Heritage Festival

Words by Neill Spurgeon, Chair, Festival Consortium

From 12 - 31 September Havant Borough will have a plethora of Heritage events for people to enjoy completely free and, in many cases, with no booking required. Watch out for the big pink H signs which indicate that an event is supported by the national Heritage Open Days system, a sure sign of quality. This year's festival theme is Architecture and the History of Building and several days are planned focusing on the Heritage of, respectively, Havant Town, Waterlooville, Hayling Island and Leigh Park, with additional events in Emsworth and Bedhampton.

One event that might be of particular interest to Emsworth and Westbourne Residents following the forthcoming superb Swing Riots 1830 Exhibition at Emsworth Museum, will be the Swing Riots Day in The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre in East Street, Havant on Thursday 18 September, when the Harrison Room will be alive to folk song, play readings and reports from the Swing Riots Research Groups focusing on this occasion, particularly upon the after effects of those riots upon the women left behind when their menfolk were transported to van Diemen's land, never to return. The analogies with last summer's riots are far too close for comfort and who knows what thoughts may be provoked by our redeployment under a Mayoral Strategic Authority.

Given those upcoming change to local government in the region, some people may find the display in the Meridian Shopping Centre, running throughout the period of the festival, to be useful to put these ideas into context. The subject is Public Administration and , Justice 1327 – 2025, and is split into an early period up until 1835 and then a second period thereafter with many changes to the basic principles of local Government. Also featuring for your education and interest on the evening of Thursday 18 September the ever popular Nigel Gossop is giving a talk, following on both from last year's festival and the recent exhibition in the museum, on the subject of *The Rise and Fall of the Arundel and Portsmouth Canal* in Emsworth Community Centre. As ever tickets £5 from Bookends.


Havant Heritage Festival 2025
Architecture Day
20th September 2025
Heritage Events
heritage open days
Alfred Edwin Stallard (1861 to 1953) was a key Havant Architect from 1893 until World War Two.
Chris W Wilkins (1891-1975) was also a Key Architect in Havant following on from the legacy of Stallard.
Today via two interlinked events we are exploring their legacies, the architecture of Havant
11:30 Guided Tour of Stallard Buildings in Central Havant
In support of Architecture Day of the Havant Heritage Festival this guided walk will introduce you to some key buildings which you may have seen many times before but know little about the architect, Alfred Edwin Stallard who, it could be argued, gave Edwardian and pre-war Havant some of it's post Georgian character
14:00 Talk about Havant Architecture and Design
Wilkins and Modern Design
Given by Jeremy Sayer BA Dip Arch RIBA
Director PWP Architects
pwp architects
The Spring
Harrison Room
The Spring Arts & Heritage Centre
East Street, Havant PO9 1BS
FREE Events
Booking Opens 1st September

Havant Heritage Festival 2025
Pallant House Tour
18th September 2025
Heritage Event
heritage open days
09:55 or 10:55 Meet your guide in the courtyard
There are many stories about the Pallant and Prince George Street, formally Bear Street and this area of the town where the pond once stood. Cattle roamed past on their way to market while the coaches from London lumbered by on their way to the Bear Inn for a welcome drink as the coachman changed horses.
st faiths havant
The Spring
The Pallant Centre
14 The Pallant, Havant, PO9 1BE
FREE Events
Booking Opens 1st September
From Booking Office @ The Spring

Community

End of an era but we hope Emsworth will keep blooming

Words by Angie McMillan

You must have noticed the wonderful flower displays in bloom around Emsworth, but you may not be aware that the voluntary group responsible for them was the brainchild of Emsworth resident, Sheila Morris.

Ten years ago, Sheila noticed that our neighbouring towns of Havant and Chichester had the most beautiful flower displays and felt that Emsworth deserved the same. Local Authority funding was in short supply due to austerity measures, so Sheila approached Community Groups and local businesses to see if they could help. The Emsworth Residents Association (now the ERF) were the first group to offer their support and with a grant, so Sheila was able to buy the first three tiered planters and fill them with beautiful flowers to be enjoyed by all residents and visitors to Emsworth.

Sheila is the first to admit that the project's success during the last decade has been the amazing commitment of volunteers who re-plant twice a year and then work hard to water the planters and dead head the flowers. Other support has been the generosity of funders who give money to ensure that Emsworth in Bloom can buy plants every year. We rely 100% on the generosity of Community Groups (such as the ERF and Havant Rotary), local businesses, Council grants and donations from the public, as well as support from Alan Mak MP. The flowers are supplied by East Ashling Nurseries who have done an amazing job of delivering them to St Peter's Square and other planters in the town. We also have plants supplied by Chidham Nurseries every year. We also work closely with Norse South, who collect the old plants when they have to be discarded and top up the soil in the planters twice a year.

Due to poor health, Sheila has decided to step down from leading the Emsworth in Bloom project and so, by way of this article, we would like to say a huge "thank you" to Sheila and register the enormous gratitude felt by all residents, businesses and the Local Authority for the difference she has made to the town.

We would like to say a huge "thank you" to Sheila and register the enormous gratitude felt by all for the difference she has made to the town

The future of Emsworth in Bloom and launch of our new website

The remaining group of dedicated volunteers want to ensure that Sheila's legacy lives on. It helps that the public give so much encouragement by offering words of thanks and appreciation for what we do, when they pass by and see us planting and watering the flowers. Havant Rotary has also given Emsworth in Bloom tremendous support by donating a large Easter Egg to raffle which raised £549 for our much needed funds. Havant Rotary President, Graham Smith, has also dedicated hours of his own time to help Emsworth in Bloom develop and launch a website to promote their community initiative as well as to help them raise funds for the future.

If you enjoy the flower displays and can offer a small donation to help this community project continue, or, you run an Emsworth business and would like to have your logo and website advertised, then please consider sponsoring us.

See www.emsworthinbloom.co.uk for more information and to find our JustGiving page.

Emsworth Student to Climb Kilimanjaro for Clean Water Charity

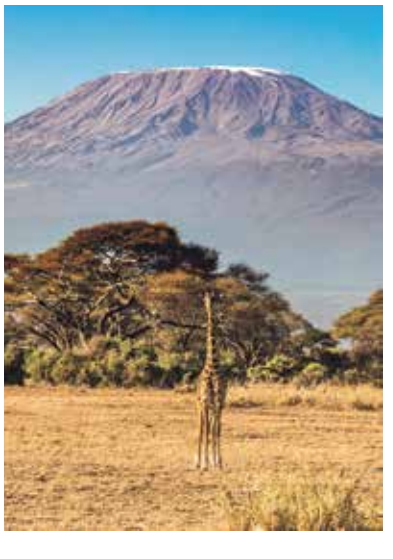
Emsworth resident Piper Lawrenson is set to climb Mount Kilimanjaro this August in support of the charity Dig Deep Africa, which works to improve access to clean water and sanitation in rural Kenya.

Piper, a fourth-year Genetics student at the University of York, has already raised over £3,000 through a variety of fundraising activities, including yoga retreats, bake sales, and charity quizzes.

"This is the biggest challenge I've ever taken on," she said. "I'm proud to support Dig Deep's efforts with schools and communities in Kenya."

Mount Kilimanjaro, located in Tanzania, stands at 5,895 metres and is Africa's highest peak. Piper will be taking part in a student-led expedition alongside others raising funds for the charity. The money raised will help fund clean water systems, hygiene education, and menstrual health programmes in rural areas where access to these services is limited. To prepare for the climb, Piper has been for many long walks, as well as balancing strength training and yoga practice around her university commitments.

The money raised will help fund clean water systems, hygiene education, and menstrual health programmes in rural areas where access to these services is limited.



"The support I've received from the friends and family has been amazing," she added. "Every donation helps bring clean water to people who need it most."

Look out for the autumn edition of the paper for an update on Piper's climb, complete with plenty of photos.

Piper's fundraising page is open for donations at: https://dig-deep.enthuse.com/pf/piper-lawrenson

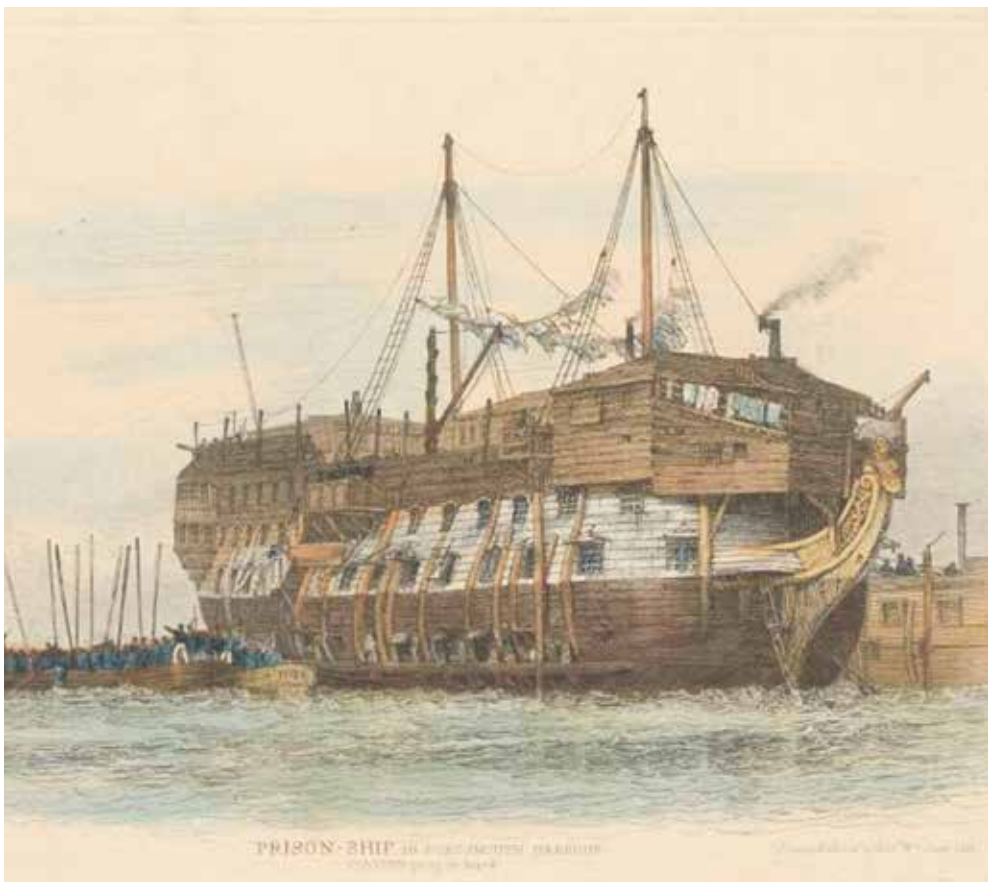
Emsworth's Forgotten Insurrection

Emsworth's Forgotten Insurrection **is the next temporary exhibition in Emsworth Museum starting on 12 July. Emsworth Museum focuses on historical events in Emsworth and the surrounding area. However, just occasionally, Emsworth finds itself at the centre of national or international events. D-Day is one such example.**

However, there are others. In November 1830, insurrection swept across southern England with a campaign aimed at destroying threshing machines. These upheavals became known as the Swing Riots named after the pseudonym of the writer of letters threatening farmers with the destruction of their threshing machines. There were three areas where the impact was greatest – East Kent, North Hampshire and the Emsworth area.

This exhibition sets out the causes of the revolt in and around Emsworth and Westbourne; the authorities' response and the penalties imposed on those who were caught. The ringleaders were transported to Tasmania for 7 years. After they served their time, some of those transported had very successful careers in Australia. This prompts the question - who organised the riots, or were they a spontaneous outburst against an unjust society? Remarkably, the underlying causes of the social unrest in 1830 are similar to social issues today – low wages; unintended consequences of legislation; and climate change. One can understand the despair and frustration of the young men who were involved in the riots. They had nothing to lose as they hurled themselves against an unsympathetic establishment. Today, Emsworth seems an unlikely location for an insurrection. 195 years ago, it was a different matter.

Emsworth Museum is open on Saturdays, Bank Holidays and Fridays in August from 10:30 am until 4:30 pm. On Sundays the Museum is open from 1:30 pm until 4:30 pm.



The Prison Hulk York, moored in Langstone Harbour. Image courtesy of the National Library of Australia

News from the Parish of Warblington-with-Emsworth

Churchyard Teas at St Thomas à Becket Church, July and August

A warm invitation to come and enjoy a drink and homemade cake in the peaceful surroundings of St Thomas à Becket Church – every Sat & Sun 2.30-4.30pm during July and August. All welcome.

Wonder Zone Holiday Club, 26-29 August

Following last year's brilliant Backpackers summer holiday club, join us between 26 and 29 August for Wonder Zone – for all children who have been in primary school this past academic year.

During Wonder Zone, the children will meet Solomon and his desire to be wise. They will explore three Psalms and see what those tell us about God. They'll see Jesus bring sight to a blind man and light to the world and they'll hear the story of the lost son who is welcomed back by his father. There's lots of fun to be had discovering the wonders of the universe along the way.

The club will be held at St James' School, Emsworth, and will run from 10am-12.30pm each day. There will be a cost of £10 per family.

Please sign up at: https://parishofwwe.churchsuite.com/events/byouytfs or contact Jacqui Watson for more info: childrenandyouth@warblington-withemsworth.org.

An Invitation to Alpha

Have you ever asked yourself, 'Is there more to life than this?' If so, you're not alone – and you're warmly invited to Alpha, a relaxed, friendly series of sessions where we explore life's big questions together.

What is Alpha?

Alpha is a place to explore the Christian faith in a non-pressured, judgment-free environment. Each session includes food, a short film, and open discussion where all questions are welcome. It's for anyone – whether you're exploring faith for the first time, returning to church, or just curious.

We're hoping to run an Alpha course at St James' soon – please check our website for more info and register your interest in the meantime at: parishoffice@warblington-withemsworth.org

News from St James' CEC School

Join Our Governing Board as a Co-opted Governor

Are you passionate about education and eager to make a meaningful contribution to your local community? St James' School is looking for two new co-opted governors to join our dedicated governing board.

About the Role

As a co-opted governor, you will work closely with the head teacher and governing body to ensure the school provides the best possible education for its pupils. You will help shape the strategic direction of the school, hold leadership to account, and ensure sound financial oversight.

We are particularly looking for candidates who can bring strong financial skills to the board, though this is not essential so please don't let it deter you. You will be expected to attend around nine meetings per academic year, plus occasional school visits and training.

Previous experience in education or governance is not required—we offer full training and ongoing support within a friendly team.

For more info please contact Catherine Warnock, Chair of Governors: cwarnock@stjamesprimaryemsworth.co.uk

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Emsworth Arts Trail

Emsworth Arts Trail 2025 attracted over 80,000 visitors to the town. The event featured 98 artists who opened their doors and venues. New artists appreciated the opportunity to talk about their work and be part of a vibrant and supportive artist community. The exhibited artwork comprised paintings, printmaking, textiles and woodwork. The trail guide and online guide helped visitors navigate the various locations.

Emsworth Arts Trail extends its gratitude to all those involved in making this year's event successful. It is important to acknowledge the community's role in enhancing Emsworth's appeal as a destination on the south coast.

This year presented challenges due to the fire damage at the community centre, which required some artists to relocate. The community supported those without venues. Local businesses displayed artists' work in their windows, with special recognition to Kathryn at Felix Tabitha for her support.

Additionally, local videographer Schlep promoted the trail with a film clip of artists working in their studios, offering insight into the craftsmanship and processes involved in creating artworks.

Art Invisible enjoyed the opportunity to showcase, deepen and expand engagement with their artists and the local community as well as with visitors from far and wide.

The sales of their work and the lovely comments from visitors brought joy to the artists.

Next year is an exciting year as we mark the 25th anniversary of Emsworth Arts Trail.

Emsworth Artists Summer Exhibition 2025

Emsworth Artists are an exclusive number of artists who live within 2 miles of Emsworth Square. The purpose of our Exhibition is to help raise funds for the Community Centre which we have been doing for many years, raising up to £50.000 for the running of the Centre.

The Exhibition began in 1987 when the Lumley Room was first opened and a retrospective Exhibition was held for artist Sydney J Stokes and from there our Summer Exhibition began. We do not have meetings ourselves but come together for this special event. This year we have a painting donated by Simon Cowper for the raffle and as usual many paintings by our extremely talented artists. After the devastating fire at the Community Centre earlier this year we hope to again to be able donate a considerable amount.

Painting donated by Simon Cowper

Our visitors are very important to us and we hope to welcome you. The Exhibition is from Saturday 23 until Wednesday 27 August at the Community Centre from 10 am until 5 pm daily. We very much look forward to seeing you.

Emsworth Art Group

New Premises

Emsworth Art Group are now operating in their new temporary premises since the fire in the Community Centre on 18 March. They had previously used the Assembly Room, but this was the room affected by the fire, so arrangements were made to move temporarily across the road to Emsworth Baptist Church. The church has been most accommodating and meetings are carrying on as usual every Wednesday morning. This has worked very well now for some months and the venue is proving popular with members.

The group meet every Wednesday morning throughout the year to paint in the medium of their choice and socialise and exchange ideas during the tea break. At present there is a short waiting list to join, but anyone interested should contact the secretary, Trevor Smith, by email: atrevorsmith@gmail.com

Autumn Exhibition 1 and 2 November 2025

The group are now making early preparations for their Autumn Exhibition. This is always very popular with members and the public. They will return to the Community Centre Lumley Room for the exhibition. Paintings and other art work will be on display and for sale.

Adrian Weston and other Group members

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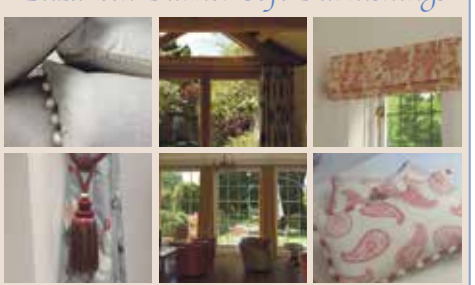

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Emsworth Show

Bank Holiday Monday 25 August (10.30 am – 5.00 pm)

New Life Church, Thorney Rd, Emsworth

Free parking on site, or courtesy bus which stops all around Emsworth.

Please see map for timetable. **Come along between 10.30 am 5.00 pm to visit the Greatest Little Show in the South**

Please note: *no parking on Thorney Road on 25 August.*

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BUS TIMETABLE
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BUS 2
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*NEW BRIGHTON ROAD
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*MAIN ROAD EMSWORTH
*LUMLEY MILL POND
LEAVING SHOWGROUND
*NEW DOCTORS SURGERY
*TRAIN STATION
*COLD HARBOUR FARM
*THE JINGLES HOTEL
Free bus is to and from the Show only, it cannot pick up passengers at intermediate stops on route away from showground

Browse the 70+ stalls around the showground which include crafts, baked goods, tombola and games. Watch the events in the arena: duck herding with Quack Pack, Melana Dance, Morris Dancing. Join the fun with Dolly and Gracie in the Sports Day Spectacular, Welly wanging and much more! Enter your best friend in the dog show - details on our website.

Get your lunch from one of the numerous food stalls, or sit and chill with a glass of wine, while listening to the musical entertainment including Alder Valley Brass, Slow Burn Reggae, and, new this year, singer Archie Mac.

Visit the Emsworth Horticultural Marquee to see all the prize-winning vegetables, flowers, cakes and preserves, photography and arts and crafts, to name just a few of the categories. If you wish to enter please see the schedule which is available on the website at:

www.emshs.org.uk

Early Bird tickets are £5.50 (full price ticket £7.00 from 1 August,) available from our website www.emsworthshow.co.uk

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Environment

Final Straw

River Ems Clean-Up Protects Rare Chalk Stream Habitat

As part of Green Week at the beginning of June, The Final Straw Foundation, along with the Western Sussex Rivers Trust, Brook Meadow Conservation Group and 15 dedicated local volunteers, cleaned up plastic pollution from the River Ems - one of the local chalk streams running through Brook Meadow, Emsworth, and into Chichester Harbour.

There are only around 300 chalk streams globally, and 85% are found in the UK, the majority of which are in the south and east of England. Chalk streams have been described as the UK's equivalent of the Great Barrier Reef, and the River Ems is one of only ten Flagship Chalk Stream Restoration Projects in England.

Helen Littlejohn from The Final Straw Foundation said: "Many of our chalk streams are in poor condition due to over-abstraction of water, plastic pollution, pesticide run-off from agricultural land, tyre particles from road run-off, and urbanisation. Plastic waste doesn't go away, it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces, threatening all the wildlife that rely on this ecosystem and ultimately ending up in our food chain, and into us. Today, we've removed 35 kgs of plastic pollution from the River Ems, including 26 dog balls, 17 dog poo bags, 65 cans, 25 glass bottles, 36 plastic bottles, and 1 shopping trolley. It isn't just about picking up litter. It's about changing our relationship with plastic and protecting the places we often take for granted. We want people to see this clean-up as a start. What really matters is what happens next - reducing our reliance on single-use plastic and respecting our waterways."

Brook Meadow is popular with dog walkers, but many people don't realise the devastating effect that dog flea treatments have on the invertebrates in the chalk stream. "These invertebrates are essential food for fish, bats, and birds, but the toxic chemicals in these treatments (such as fipronil, permethrin, and the neonicotinoid imidacloprid) never go away and pollute our rivers, soils, and food chain. A single flea treatment from a medium-sized dog can kill up to 60 million bees, and bees are essential for our food security. One of the main ways you can help protect river wildlife from these harmful toxins is to keep your dog out of rivers, especially if they've recently received flea, tick, or worm treatments," added Sarah Hughes from the Western Sussex Rivers Trust.

Today, we've removed 35 kgs of plastic pollution from the River Ems including dog balls, dog poo bags, cans, bottles and a shopping trolley

Neil Botterill from Brook Meadow Conservation Group commented, "Water levels in the Ems chalk stream have depleted over the years, and most summers, parts of the river dry up. This habitat is rarer than rainforest and is home to unique invertebrates and vegetation including the European water vole (the fastest-declining mammal in the UK), divided sedge (a nationally scarce sedge), black poplar trees (some of the UK's rarest trees), European eels (whose numbers have fallen by around 95% in the last 40 years), and bullhead fish (a rare and protected species). Depleted water levels can have devastating effects on many fish species, as well as on land-dwelling creatures who rely on the stream for water during the hotter months."

It has been fantastic to see the local community, The Final Straw Foundation, the Western Sussex Rivers Trust, and Brook Meadow Conservation Group coming together to preserve this rare habitat. If you care about nature and your environment, why not get involved in one of our other clean-up projects?

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Rip Rap

Words and photo by Maggie Gebbett

Along the beach on Easter Monday, at low tide, there was a group of busy local windsurfers, not on the water, but doing excellent work in returning large boulders to their places along the path where such stones are moved away by strong waves.

The voluntary work by these surfers makes the beach safer and more enjoyable for windsurfers and dinghy sailors coming in close to the shore, as well as making it clear and safer for walkers. Emsworth Sailing Club had organised a similar activity along the beach close to their dinghy park. It's great news that these keen people help keep our Emsworth beach safer. This sort of beach protection by boulders is known as riprap. It was strengthened and lengthened in 1991 in a locally-led project whose members raised the £25,000 finance for it.

New animations spotlight nature recovery in Chichester Harbour

Chichester Harbour Conservancy has produced three exciting new animations explaining the issues affecting our precious coastal habitats and what we can do to protect them. Narrated by 'Terri the Tern', the short films take you over, alongside and under the waters of Chichester Harbour, providing a unique view into the threats facing our wildlife.

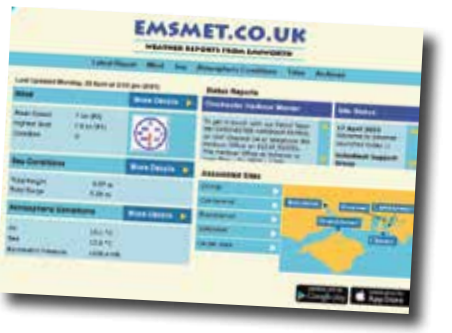
The three animations focus on nature recovery, water quality and sea-level rise. Chichester Harbour is one of the most important sites for wildlife in the UK, but nature here is under threat. Saltmarsh has declined by nearly 60% since the 1940s, coastal bird numbers have dropped, seagrass is threatened, and our native oyster reefs have disappeared. Chichester Harbour Conservancy is focused on the protection and recovery of nature, and these animations help people better understand the importance of our coastal habitats, the threats they face and the actions we can all take to protect nature on our doorstep.

Three animated films provide a unique view of the threats that face Chichester Hrabour

To watch the films visit www.conservancy.co.uk. The animations were funded by the Environment Agency's Sustainable Innovations Fund and produced in partnership with Natural England.

Local funding and volunteers facilitate new, on-the-water EMSMET weather station in Chichester Harbour

Emsworth Sailing Club has facilitated the raising of local funds and volunteers to scope, fund and deploy a new, multi-sensor weather station called EMSMET, located at the Emsworth end of Chichester Harbour, which will provide vital information for all local water sports users and many others. www.emsmet.co.uk



The new weather station will be invaluable for all forms of local water sports users in giving both real-time and historic, localised wind speed and direction, air and sea temperature as well as important tidal height and tidal surge data. EMSMET is located at Sweare Deep, halfway down the Emsworth channel in Chichester Harbour, and is linked to the current SSG (Solent Support Group) weather stations, two of which also exist in Chichester Harbour: Cambermet and Chimet. Localised weather conditions can vary substantially throughout the harbour and until now there has been no accurate information for the top end of the harbour at Emsworth. Localised weather information is essential for sailing, rowing and other water sports clubs, boat users and visiting yachtsmen, swimmers, and other on-the-water participants in order to assess safe boating conditions as well as for event risk assessments, setting race courses, and as general good practice for all water sports users.

In the absence of accurate local weather data, Emsworth Sailing Club's Sailing Committee tasked one of the volunteer members to run a feasibility study on the technical equipment required, likely budget, possible site location and funding options for a local weather station. Working closely with Chichester Harbour Conservancy, who install and maintain the other weather stations within the harbour, the project quickly came to fruition.

EMSMET, as well as the other Solent Support Group weather sites, provides all the information mentioned above free of charge. The highly robust, state-of-the-art technical equipment is also used for Arctic surveying and was installed on the southerly cardinal marker in the Emsworth Channel by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy team. A number of local organisations, including Emsworth Sailing Club and Emsworth Yacht Harbour, are already displaying the live data on screens for the benefit of their members/berth holders.

As well as being of great value to all water sports users, the tidal surge information will also be of vital interest to householders in Emsworth in areas of tidal surge flood risk and the Environment Agency will also have direct access to this data.

The five weather stations, including EMSMET, which are run by the volunteers of the Solent Support Group, rely on charitable donations for all their maintenance, software and upgrading costs. This vital service welcomes any donations to assist it in continuing to provide this essential service for water sports users.

Please donate generously at https://localgiving.org/charity/solentmet.

All the money for the technical sensors and data collection equipment was raised enthusiastically and generously from the following local organisations:
Emsworth Sailing Club (ESC)
Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club
Langstone Sailing Club
Emsworth Yacht Harbour
Chichester Harbour Federation
Friends of Chichester Harbour
Jo Cox, Chichester Harbour Master
(through the donation of her speaking fee at an ESC event)

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Environment

Environmental report published

Rob Bailey & Bianca Carr. On behalf of the Clean Harbours Partnership

After a long wait, we are very pleased to say that the Universities of Portsmouth, Brunel and Imperial have published results from the research study which the ERF kindly contributed towards a couple of years ago.

The scientific paper *Chemical profiling of surface water and biota in protected marine harbours impacted by combined sewer overflows* was published in the prestigious Environment International Volume 199, May 2025. The report was also covered by the BBC.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c77njz46nymo

To download the full report Google '*Chemical profiling of surface water and biota in protected marine harbours impacted by combined sewer overflows*'.

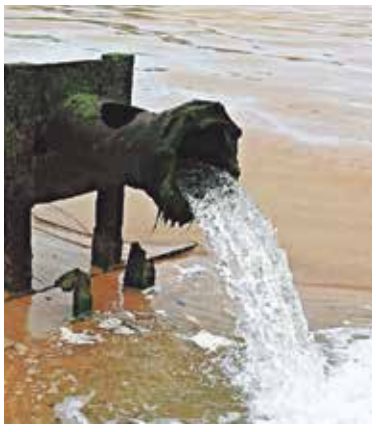
You may recall that the study was commissioned because we were (and still are) all concerned about 'what's really in our harbour water.' Levels of E.coli have been reaching levels above bathing standards for many years but there is little public knowledge about what else is lurking and their impact. Without scientifically analysed test results, it has been easy for authorities to glance over the risks. Our study has thrown a spotlight on the cocktail of pharmaceuticals that pass through humans after being partially digested, showing a direct link to sewage discharges. We plan to arrange a presentation of the results for contributors in the summer but in the meantime wish to say a very big thank you to you, your members and the 50 or so samplers who conducted this leading study.

Tim Sheerman-Chase

Statement on Project Spotlight Report on Water Quality

The Chichester Harbour Trust welcomes the publication of the Project Spotlight research which was released on 7 April 2025 and highlights the chemical cocktail entering harbour waters, particularly after wastewater storm discharges.

The full report is found at cleanharbourspartnership.co.uk and identifies 105 pollutants, including pharmaceuticals and pesticides, raising concerns for both marine ecosystems and human health. This chemical cocktail included 67 pharmaceutical drugs, 29 pesticides (including some banned for over a decade) and 9 recreational drugs.



339 samples were taken from 21 locations in Chichester and Langstone Harbours by volunteers from the Clean Harbours Partnership as part of the citizen science project, supported by Brunel University London, the University of Portsmouth, and Imperial College London.

The Chichester Harbour Trust has long expressed concern over the discharge of both treated and untreated wastewater into Chichester Harbour, a highly designated conservation site. To this end we set up the Harbour Summit in 2021, which now meets twice-yearly, and have campaigned over recent years both locally and in Westminster for improved regulation of the water industry.

In the past months our Chairman, Nick Backhouse, has met with the most senior leadership of the key agencies including Southern Water, the Environment Agency and Ofwat.

Nick said, "We are encouraged that the leadership of all the key agencies is focused and committed to reducing wastewater discharges into the Harbour, recognising its international importance for nature, and for recreation. However, action needs to come faster, and we question why wastewater is being discharged into this precious water body at all. We have been looking closely at examples from Lake Windermere to Lake Annecy in France, and, wish to see the same level of attention directed to addressing the water quality issues in Chichester."

www.chichesterharbourtrust.org.uk

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Ems Valley Memorial Arboretum EVMA

Letter from the Chair, Eva Mikuska

Spring has been a busy and productive season for the EVMA trustees. We are pleased to announce the appointment of Frank Campbell as our newest trustee. Frank, a resident of Westbourne, will serve as a liaison between Emsworth and Westbourne Parish Council, a key role as we continue to build strong local partnerships. We warmly welcome Frank to the team and look forward to working with him as we strengthen our community ties and drive forward our shared environmental goal.

After a very dry March, it was decided to begin weekly watering of the trees planted last autumn. Since that decision, we have received approximately 40 mm of rain, but with rising and sustained high temperatures regular watering has become increasingly important to support young trees through early summer. In these conditions, each young tree requires around 20 to 40 litres of water every fortnight to stay healthy and establish strong roots. Some of the tree species we planted include Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca' – Blue Atlas Cedar; Sequoiadendron giganteum – Giant Redwood; Liriodendron tulipifera – Tulip Tree; Quercus castaneifolia – Chestnut-Leaved Oak and Juglans nigra – Black Walnut. These trees were carefully selected for their ecological and aesthetic value, and ensuring their proper care is essential to their successful establishment and long-term growth.

We are delighted to announce that all

each young tree requires around 20 to 40 litres of water every fortnight to stay healthy and establish strong roots

three In Memoriam binders are now in place. One is held at Emsworth Library, another at Westbourne Parish Church, and the third was placed in Emsworth Museum in May. The binder was officially handed over by Kate O'Rourke and Yvonne Copeland and was gratefully received by Trevor Davies, the chairman of Emsworth Museum. The binders are now available for public viewing.

We are also pleased to confirm that the installation of the commemorative plaque stand and benches is scheduled for this summer. The

An In Memoriam binder was placed in Emsworth Museum in May

plaques have already been delivered, and once the installation is complete, we will share full details on our website, evma.org.uk, and in the next issue of The Ems. These additions will provide a welcoming place for visitors to rest and reflect, and mark the community's ongoing support for the EMVA.

We would also love to meet you in person. Come and visit us at Westbourne Parish Fete on 9 July and at Emsworth Show on 25 August. We will be there to answer your questions, share updates on our projects, and celebrate the work we are all doing together with our volunteers for which we are indebted and extremely grateful.

If anyone needs to contact us about anything in this letter, please use the e-mail info@evma.org.uk or scan our QR code for up to date information and news items. There is also an interactive map (which will be updated with the latest planting) where one can identify all the trees so far planted https://evma.org.uk/the-trees/tree-locator. Anyone interested in work parties should register with Friends of Hampshire Farm Meadows (Neil Mant hfm-friends@gmail.com).

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Business Feature

Borland & Borland Letting Agent Wins British Property Award

Borland & Borland Lettings, Emsworth's independent letting agent, recently won The British Property Awards 2024/25 Letting Agent in Emsworth & Hayling Island. Borland & Borland Letting's team performed outstandingly throughout the extensive award judging period, which focused on customer service levels. "The whole team works extremely hard to ensure we give the best level of service to our clients, so it's wonderful to be recognised with this accolade," said Lettings Manager, Lisa Duddridge.

The award's independent judging included mystery shops against a set of criteria, to obtain a balanced overview of Borland & Borland's customer service levels. The British Property Award's judging criteria is comprehensive and detailed, exploring different scenarios and time periods to ensure that agents have been rigorously and fairly judged. Steven Borland, Senior Partner commented, "We're confident that the service Borland & Borland give is second to none, and we're pleased to see it reflected in our two recent award wins for both the sales and the lettings branches." Borland & Borland are members of the ARLA, NAEA, TPO, TDS, and with a wide range of properties To Let.

Contact Borland & Borland Lettings to book a property valuation or viewing:

01243 379000 or
lettings@borlandandborland.co.uk
www.borlandandborland.co.uk

Harbour Records

Owners of Harbour Records, Rob Moore and Ken Brown are celebrating signing a three year extension to their current lease by organising another of their popular, free entry, 'In Store' afternoon shows in the shop. On Saturday 27 September the shop will be hosting Americana UK Artist of the Year, Hannah White, for an intimate acoustic performance at 1.30 pm, in support of Hannah's much anticipated new album *Fine Day*.

As well as touring with the likes of Jools Holland, Ricky Ross (Deacon Blue) and Paul

Carrack, she has been featured on BBC 6 Music and BBC Radio 2 by Cerys Matthews and Bob Harris, and has also been invited to perform an official showcase at the prestigious AmericanaFest in Nashville.

Described as "wonderful" by Whispering Bob Harris, at January's Americana Music Association, in front of such dignitaries and fellow performers as Lyle Lovett and Candi Staton, Hannah also won UK Album of the Year for 2023's *Sweet Revolution*. 2023 was also the year she won UK Song of the Year with the arrestingly autobiographical *Car Crash*.

Performance starts at 1.30pm. It's free entry but recommended that you get into the shop a little earlier. Harbour Records, 29 High St, Emsworth. Tel 01243 371415

Maroon Town

Hannah White

Wemsfest

9th Beer, Cider & Wine Festival Will Go Ahead

Despite damage to the roof of Emsworth Community Centre the 9th Emsworth Beer, Cider & Wine Festival, organised by WemsFest, will go ahead as planned from Friday 19 to Sunday 21 September.

WemsFest Director Mark Ringwood explained, "We can't use the Assembly Hall but we can use additional rooms within the Centre as well as a large tent outside in the Courtyard area which will offer weatherproof accommodation. We plan for up to 30 cask-conditioned ales plus ciders, and wines from two local vintners. The ales will range in price from £3 per pint upwards and a complimentary drink, programme, and souvenir glass is included in the ticket price of £12.50, which has remained the same for the past 6 years. Once again all proceeds will go towards our educational work which this year will feature a 6-piece band from Cuba taking part in schools workshops, and public performances in October as part of Black History Month."

The Surtierra Project Was a Great Success

Assembling a 60-strong community choir from scratch, rehearsing it to sing a fifteen minute piece of music in Spanish, and then integrating it into a full concert programme with more choral pieces, a string quartet, and a 6-piece Anglo-Chilean band for 4 public performances was a huge undertaking. Yet all this was achieved in less than six months under the guidance of WemsFest Community Director Katya Porter, and singing directors Emily Barden and Laura Blake. The *Mass for The Miners* was written by Chilean refugee Mauricio Venegas-Astorgas who fronts the 6-piece band Quimantu. With funding from Arts Council England the Surtierra Project was able to give 3 performances in Chichester, Havant, and Portsmouth, with a final sold-out performance in St. Paul's Church in Covent Garden as part of National Refugee Week.

International Season Ahead for WemsFest

Musicians from Quebec, USA, Italy, Cuba, Spain, and The Caribbean are all set to perform in WemsFest's programme for the rest of 2025 alongside domestic players from England, Scotland, and Ireland. Le Vent du Nord make a welcome return to St. James' Church on Saturday 19 July. Thereafter the Italian duo of Max & Veronica, Cuban band Asere, and Spanish band El Pony Pisador represent a Latin contingency. Folk artists Fairport Convention and Flook also play St. James' Church, whilst Woodstock veteran Barry 'The Fish' Melton, and Medicine Head hit-writer John Fiddler of *One and One is One* fame play Havana in Chichester and guitarists and close friends Gordon Giltrap & John Etheridge join forces in early October. Finally the Caribbean reggae/ska band Maroon Town help WemsFest to celebrate 15 years of existence in early December.

Tickets are available from Bookends and Harbour Records, online through wegottickets.com. wemsfest.com has further details.

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Business Updates

Three local shops have closed

Old Pharmacy
The Old Pharmacy at 57 High Street, Emsworth closed on 26 April. The business has merged with Emsworth Pharmacy, West Street. The former Old Pharmacy does not appear to be advertised on any commercial property websites nor is there any current planning application for the site.

PO10
The arts and gift shop, PO10 has closed its premises at 7 High St. The shop was opened in 2018 by local artist, Lisa Edgington. In an interview with ITV she stated that due to rising costs, declining footfall and customers cutting back on luxuries, she has had no choice but to close her shop.

Vin Wine Merchants
Vin wine merchants have closed their shop at 6 Queen St. which opened in 2016. Vin Wine is run by Jonathan Rogers who had previously worked in the wine trade with Oddbins, Harrods and Wickham Vineyard. The business will continue to trade online at: www.vinwinemerchants.com/
The shop closure was brought about by the property owner wishing to sell the site. The building is currently being offered for sale by Borland & Borland.

Vape shop opens

Emsworth's first vape shop has opened trading as Emsworth Store at 39 High St.
The shop also sells soft drinks, crisps, sweets etc. The premises were previously occupied by a hairdresser and a care agency.
Editor: *Single use vapes have been illegal since 1 June 2025. There had been some concern about the garish nature of the window display of this business but this has now been removed.*

Charity shop to move premises?

The Revitalise charity shop at 28B High St closed on 7 March. Planning application APP/25/00203 has been approved to erect a new Sue Ryder sign above the shop.
The unit is currently occupied by Emsworth Heating who also use the adjacent unit.

Local papers change hands

National World, who published The Portsmouth News, Chichester Observer and around 100 other local papers, have been bought by Irish advertising and media company Media Concierge. National World were formed in 2020 to takeover JPI Media who in turn were created to take over the assets of Johnson Press who went out of business.

Farmers' Market

The market is held on the third Saturday of each month from 9 am to 1 pm in the Square. The dates for the next few months are: 19 July, 16 August, 20 Sept, 18 Oct, 15 Nov and 20 Dec.

Facts and figures

House prices in Emsworth
The property website Zoopla gives the following information about average Emsworth house prices:
- Terraced house £353,800
- Detached house £562,500
- Semi-detached house £425,000
- Flats £165,500

https://www.zoopla.co.uk/guides/areas/emsworth/

Minimum Wage

C Yurtman

As from 1 April 2025 minimum wage rates have increased to:
- £12.21 per hr (age 21+)
- £10 per hr (18 -20)
- £7.55 per hr (under 18)
- £7.55 per hr (Apprentice rate, under 19 or in first year of apprenticeship)

Unemployment figures (May 2025)

Borough of Havant 2,695 (3.7%)
Emsworth 120 (2.3%)
Chichester DC area 2,450 (3.4%)
UK 1.73 mill (4.1%)

Havant tops workless table in Hampshire

Survey based figures released by Hampshire CC show that almost 1 in 4 adults aged 16 -64 in the Borough of Havant are not in employment and are not seeking work. The figures for SE Hampshire are:
- Havant 24.8%
- Fareham 12.9%
- Portsmouth 13.8%
- UK 21.5%

Population (2021 census)

Emsworth 10,629
32.8% age 65+
4,674 households
75.9% owner occupied

Inflation rate

The official consumer price inflation rate as calculated by ONS is 3.4%
In Feb 2021 it stood at 0.4%. www.ons.gov.uk

Clarification of a previous article
The Deck
In the Spring 2025 edition of The Ems we stated that the Deck had briefly closed in January and then re-opened under new management. We have been asked to clarify that Ed Collison sold the business last summer and the new proprietor made the business insolvent as in January 2025 and that Mr Collison was not responsible for the closure of the restaurant.

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Arts & Entertainment

By Russell Bramley, Arts Correspondent
Email: russatemsart@gmail.com

The Spring moves into summer

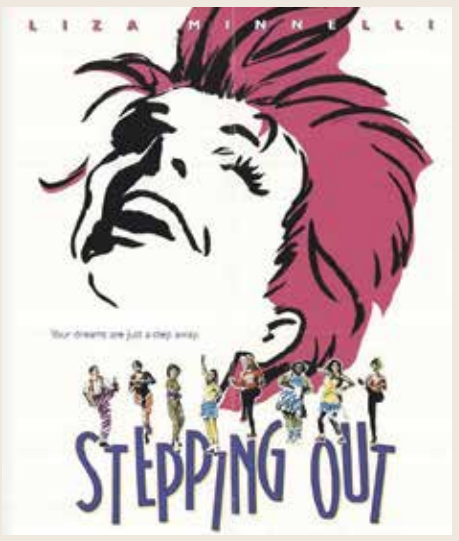
Again there is so much to choose from this summer at the Spring Arts and Heritage Centre in Havant. Two opposites that waved at me were the following:

The War of the Worlds
The original ground breaking and realistic radio broadcast, based on H.G. Wells' novel, was performed by Orson Welles on October 30 1938 and it caused widespread panic in the US. Having been mesmerized here by the skill and performance of Nigel Miles-Thomas taking on numerous roles in the one man show *Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act* I hopefully aim to repeat the experience as award-winning actor Jonathan Goodwin performs a solo rendition of this gripping piece of dramatic Victorian theatre.

The War of the Worlds

The show lands Thursday 7 August at 7.30 pm (tickets £15)

Stepping Out
With one of my favourite musicals being *Cabaret* starring the fabulous Liza Minnelli, and having laughed and applauded her dance group in the 1991 movie *Stepping Out*, I aim to join the Bench Theatre as they take to the stage in this heart-warming tap dance show. Some wonderful characters take us on a journey through friendships, courage and dancing. Taking a step outside your comfort zone can be scary but also hugely rewarding. Give this one a try and you'll leave smiling and tapping your feet.



Thursday 10 - Saturday 19 July

For times and prices and all that is on see www.thespring.co.uk
56 East St, Havant PO9 1BS info@thespring.co.uk

The Emsworth Music Club

Vince Lee & Sophie Lord
Vince Lee is an authentic, virtuoso blues musician who is to be joined by Sophie Lord, a bassist who is known in this genre's circle as 'Lord of the Bass.' Vince has been playing and singing the blues in all its forms since the mid 80s and has influenced many like-minded musicians with his guitar playing. Sophie Lord was one of those people. Three years ago after 10 years working as a bass player in London, Sophie joined forces with Vince. Rare quality can be found with this vintage blues duo.

Vince Lee & Sophie Lord

Emsworth Sports and Social Club
43 - 45 Havant Rd., Emsworth PO10 7JF
08 Aug 2025, 19:00 – 22:10 tickets £18

Amazingly (as if it needed to be said at all) I spotted an establishment request for 'no talking' during the performances and 'no phones'. How sad is that? This is a serious music venue. If you can't take it seriously maybe go outside and natter. Phones and lit screens to me are the scourge of live entertainment.

Chichester Festival Theatre

Choir by Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti
Sat 2 – Sat 30 Aug
Minerva Theatre

This theatre is so wonderful, intimate and so involving that you are almost part of it.
In the last edition I reviewed *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*. I was interested to see an actor I liked, Mark Addy. I had no idea what to expect but left numbed at the breath-taking show and Mark who gave one of the best acting performances I think I've ever seen. You were there with him on his journey and that said, *Choir* could be tailor-made for this audience-embracing venue. The story reminds me the musical *Stepping Out* (see the Spring article) where a group of eccentric characters with a variety of backgrounds come together more for the social aspect but are offered the opportunity to sing on national TV. Will this community choir pull it off as home truths are revealed and secrets laid bare in this feel good comedy with music. I have no idea what to expect and we know what happened the last time I said that.

Choir

Marie and Rosetta
Chichester Festival Theatre
Wed 25 Jun – Sat 26 Jul 7.15 pm
this show has no interval

Multi award winning singer songwriter Beverley Knight MBE showcases the story of Rosetta Tharpe who is often referred to as the 'godmother of rock and roll'. Mississippi 1946. Sister Rosetta has changed the face of gospel music with her exuberant, electric guitar-playing style. However, shunned by her church and community for playing in nightclubs she persuades her young singer Marie (Ntombizodwa Ndlovu) to join her on a tour of the segregated southern states. Her music and style influenced the likes of Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash among many and changed the musical landscape. Classic music retold by an Olivier Award winning star looks like making this a safe bet for a fabulous time.

Maria and Rosetta

Chichester Festival Theater 01243 781312
Oaklands Way, Chichester PO19 6AP www.cft.org.uk/

Film Festival

The Chichester International Film Festival will be held from August 8 - 24. The 2025 festival will be the second year director Walter Francisco is at the helm.

With over 20 years' experience as the festival's second in command, Walter's first programme as director in 2024 received universal praise and commendation for the variety of films. This year also saw an expansion into new venues in the area.

The festival films are shown at a variety of locations within Chichester, including Chichester Cinema at New Park, Priory Park, St. John's Chapel, Slindon Cinema, Chichester Cathedral, and even drive-in screenings in the city centre.

www.chichesterfilmfestival.co.uk

By Russell Bramley, Arts Correspondent
Email: russatemsart@gmail.com

Arts & Entertainment

The Station Theatre, Hayling Island

Hayling Island Newsreel 1977-80
Sat 2 Aug 7:30pm £5 Station Rd,

I've recently been sorting through literally hundreds of packets of old photos gathering dust in the garage, equally clearing many from my phone. The thing here is we just don't look at them like we used to with family cine film shows or lovely albums. So when this event jumped in front of me I thought what a great idea. Hayling Island for some, feels like a 'troublesome windy road packed in the summer', but it was also a wonderful day out treat from Aldershot when we were small.

Station Theatre provides a huge variety of entertainment for islanders and visitors, and this unique showing will be well worth the trip. Four newsreels – totalling 100 minutes – take you back to Island events from the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations of 1977 to the summer carnival of 1980, via the heavy snow and floods of 1979, the departure of the Hayling Billy steam train . . . and naturists on Hayling beach. The newsreels were shot by Robert Godfrey on 16mm cine film and have not seen since 1980.

Four newsreels – totalling 100 minutes – take you back to Island events from the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations of 1977 to the summer carnival of 1980

The Station Theatre, Hayling Island PO11 0EH - 023 9246 6363
www.stationtheatre.co.uk

Emsworth Sports and Social Club

At the heart of the Emsworth community since 1918
'Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name'

When I was a young lad of 14/15 growing up in Aldershot I can recall at least four social clubs or as they were called back then, workings men's clubs. Being a one step back shy type, to me then they were somewhat of a mystery and intimidating with men playing snooker and laughing loudly amid a tear-inducing cocktail of smoke and beer. The local pubs like many of these clubs are almost lost to us. The 'local' and 'social club' were, like the TV bar *Cheers* where everybody knew your name (at time of writing RIP actor George 'Norm' Wendt). Now, much older I can see the brilliance of these social clubs as they are exactly that - social. Meeting new people and socialising can at first be daunting but it is increasingly recognised as good for your mental wellbeing. Emsworth Sports and Social Club houses the music acts shown but if you access the contact site below you'll find something for everyone and with activities for all ages.

It is not just weekend functions and top quality music – it is open every day of the week. For all the above and more go info@emsworthssclub.co.uk

For a small joining fee you can become a member of somewhere where, after time, 'everybody knows ...'

Emsworth Sports and Social Club
www.emsworthssclub.co.uk

Felix Tabitha, North Street, Emsworth (Old Post Office)

Arts and entertainment could be entertainment through art.

Felix Tabitha, next to the fire station, is a little Dr Who Tardis. Aside from selling unique fun handicrafts out front, the activities you can try in the less seen workshops at the back are endless. I've done pottery painting a couple of times and the amply timed sessions are all consuming and left me without care in the world but my project.

Go with a friend or share the fun with others there. Access the activities and full listings of arts available via the website. www.felixtabitha.co.uk - Try something new: paint glass, do floristry or make mosaics.

My mate does jigsaws and we agree that when you leave the world outside behind, even if for a few hours, that can be healthy; and again it is fun you can share in a private yet social setting.

Felix Tabitha
www.felixtabitha.co.uk

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Student View

By Ellie Turnball
Email: youth.erf@gmail.com

Northern vs Southern Universities: Is it finally time to apologise?

Words by Scarlet Davies

Students in the north and south of England have always had their differences. Students from the south are high-brow and condescending to anyone who lives further north than Birmingham, while students from the north remain aloof and fiercely protective of their northern identity. The North-South divide has been going on for as long as anyone can remember- so why is it still there? What positive attribute does this have for universities, particularly for the government who can use it to their advantage?

The south sees the north as if it's still stuck in the 80s. It's hard for a southern student to find a reason to go any further north than Cambridge. London has always been a hub of culture, with cities such as Bristol and Brighton also maintaining a solidly cosmopolitan reputation. Concerts, plays and sports games also centre around the south, fuelling the stereotype that the south is the centre of interest in England. With tourist sights generally concentrating around London, international students also are less likely to travel further up North than needed. Occasionally, this even leads to the belief that northern students are less societally 'forward' than the southern, emphasising the false assumption that southern universities are more academically important than those in the north.

Meanwhile, the north has harboured a resentment against anyone who lives further down than Birmingham. Being so far away from the south and struggling to find a societal platform, the north has begun to develop a superiority complex. In particular, southern students who move up north to study are often made fun of and alienated because of their lack of geographical and cultural knowledge of the north. The north has retreated into a tight-knit group that the south is no longer a part of; so why does this silent feud matter so much now, and how does it negatively affect the country at large?

Universities in the south have more international students, due to the advertisement of the south, and this results in more money going into these universities. Families from London and the South East have a high proportion of the top 10% of local areas by income, and - according to the ONS - London has the highest proportion of areas among the richest 10% in England. Universities in the South are given more endowments from their alumni, a source of comfort given the BBC report that almost three quarters of universities in England will face financial problems next year, despite tuition fees increasing. Research funding also depends on public funding, which is becoming an issue for less well-known northern universities. While funding becomes more and more important, it's all about connections - and northern universities are beginning to live in the south's shadow.

The south sees the north as if it's still stuck in the 80s.

Meanwhile, the north has harboured a resentment against anyone who lives further down than Birmingham.

© Parker & S Prasad

The north and south have always been separate, and it's beginning to negatively impact universities in the northern part of the country. Is this our fault, for actively encouraging resentment and distance between the two sides? While the gap between universities is not currently detrimental, it's important to maintain a similar popularity with students in both sides of the country, or face the shutting of several universities - a feat that is already promising to happen. In order to keep the prestigious level of further education in England, both sides of the country must shake hands and realise that the different treatment in the UK is more than just coal mines and spoiled Londoners.

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Launchpad update

Words by Shirley Farmer

Work has progressed well on site at North Street House whose exciting development is being funded by the John & Hilary Pritchard Trust. The refurbishment and restoration phase to the main building has largely been completed, the sash windows are all working, and the walls have been repaired with lime plaster. Planning permission for change of use to Educational will hopefully be granted from Havant Borough Council very soon (see P. 2) Then we can start the more bespoke layouts and changes needed for Launchpad Emsworth. The design team have been working with Bishop Luffa and Park Community School to design finishes, furniture, electrical and plumbing layouts.

The Real World Learning building, which follows the footprint of the already permitted building on the site, now has party wall agreements so has started to come up out of the ground. It looks as though we have a very busy few months ahead on site. During the last half term, Senior Leaders from both schools worked together to develop the staffing model for the new Launchpad and to update other school leaders on the project's progress.

A particularly exciting aspect is the opportunity Launchpad offers for collaboration - allowing staff to meet, exchange ideas and share good practice across both schools - this being a new way of working. In the summer half term, hosted by Park Community School, curriculum leaders will meet. Their focus is to explore how each school approaches the way in which curriculum is delivered and especially for those students who face challenges in learning and engaging with school because of emotional or wellbeing needs.

Refurbishment work is nearly complete as teachers take part in a workshop

Youth Report

Words by Ellie Turnbull, ERF Committee member for Youth

Youth days

The fire in the Emsworth Community centre cast doubts on whether we could hold a youth day in the spring half term. However, with some re-arranging of the programme most of the normal activities were run. Fortunately, it was dry so the table football was in the courtyard which also provided a quiet space between energetic activities. The next problem was where to hold lunch but the Parish Hall was available so a long crocodile of young people went out through the library into the alley and across the road and were more than ready for pizza and fruit. The young people as always enjoyed their day and at lunch time one of them stood up and thanked all the helpers who make it possible.

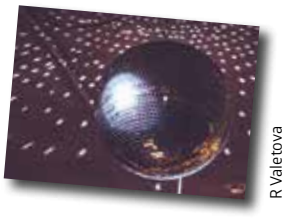
Summer Holiday Activities in Emsworth Recreation Ground (Summer THRIVE-ing)

The young people activity days run in half term in Emsworth Community Centre have been very successful so it was decided that for the summer holidays it would move into Emsworth Recreation Ground. The days will be run by coaches from Horizon Leisure who will offer Dodgeball, non-contact boxing, cricket and tennis. Young People will have the opportunity to try all of the sports.

The events will be open to all young people in years 6 to 11. To book a place email mwhitelock@horizonlc.com

The days are being sponsored by Friends of Emsworth Community Health who have made a very generous donation. The Cheque was presented at the ERF AGM by Theo Schofield and Stuart Heartfield. The ERF is very grateful for their support.

Silent disco is on its way



R Valetova

Planning is in progress for a Halloween silent disco to be held in the Community Centre on 31st October 2025. All young people in Year 6 to Year 11 will be welcome. So put the date on your calendar and look out for more details in the October issue of the EMS.

For details on youth activities contact Ellie Turnbull youth. erf@gmail.com

The FECH gave ERF £1000 towards the Young Persons' Days

Young Quilters

Over the past year Bourne Young Quilters has become well established. We are running a couple of workshops a term and they consistently have 10 to 16 young people who come along to develop their skills with crafting with textiles. Attendees are aged 6 to 13 years old. A big thanks is deserved by the Bourne Quilters members who come along so that each young person has 1 to 1 help with their sewing and are able to take home a finished project. It's really noticeable how well the young people who attend are becoming competent, with support, in using the sewing machines and irons.

We have at our disposal 8 sewing machines that the Quilters Guild have purchased to benefit Young Quilters across Region 3 which is Hampshire and Sommerset. Janome has also donated 8 special feet that are used on the machine when sewing together pieces for quilted projects. In April we made some Easter and Mothers Day cards. It was great to see the variety of designs that are made from the same materials. We were told that with a couple of the children they couldn't wait for the next day (Mothering Sunday) to give their cards.

The next project we worked on was a Messager bag. For both the girls and boys in the groups as the bag can be used for sports kit or when out and about and for holidays. Lastly we made a 9 patch cushion which uses a very traditional quilting technique to join together precut squares to create a cushion front.

If you would like to know more – or have a young quilter who would like to come along drop an email to youngquilters@bournequilters.com and we will make sure you are on the mailing list so you hear about how a young person you know can join in.

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News from Your Councillors

Cllr Grainne Rason

Green Party

The council has been busier than ever with multiple significant initiatives and developments underway, including work on the draft Local Plan, progressing through the devolution process and local government reorganisation, managing planning applications, and addressing changes following the May elections. I have submitted a response to the consultation for the draft Local Plan, which closed on 1 July. The Southleigh Road site stands out as the most critical to meeting the government's housing targets. Acknowledging the concerns about increased traffic on our already congested roads, I have met with Bloor Homes to gather more details about their plan. Another key site in the draft plan, Long Copse Lane, is notable for being home to the Bechstein Bat, the rarest bat in Europe, and its protection remains a priority. I also continue to meet with Southern and Portsmouth water on their plans for the reservoir.

As part of devolution, Hampshire will be overseen by a directly elected mayor. We are receiving ongoing updates regarding the potential makeup of the new unitary authorities, which will fundamentally change how service decisions are made. All proposals under consideration would see us joining with Portsmouth, with a final decision from the Minister expected in September.

We recently celebrated Great Big Green Week, which was enthusiastically supported by St. James's Church, Emsworth Community Centre, Nore Barn Wood Conservation Group, and the Final Straw Foundation. I joined volunteers from the Final Straw Foundation and the River Trust to clean the Ems, one of Portsmouth

Water's star rivers, which is currently facing serious environmental challenges.

In line with our environmental commitments, I proposed a motion to declare a Nature Emergency. This motion was adopted and commits us to support nature recovery, improve river health, and consider implementing a pesticide policy aimed at reducing harm to biodiversity.

Cllr Reuben Mychaleckyi

Green Party

As your local councillor, I want to share my deep concerns about the Southleigh Road housing development now going through the planning process. I know many residents feel the same way, and rightly so.

Over the past 10 years, traffic in Emsworth has at least doubled. Anyone who tries to get through the town during peak times knows exactly what I mean. If we now add hundreds more homes - and with them, hundreds more cars - we will be facing permanent gridlock. Southleigh Road simply cannot take the strain.

Under national planning rules, if we refuse this development, we risk being taken to court by the developers - and we will lose, at great cost to local taxpayers. Worse still, the new Planning and Infrastructure Bill coming from Westminster strips away key environmental protections. Developers can offset damage elsewhere rather than protecting our local landscape. This is not local democracy. We're being forced to accept plans we know are wrong for our community.

I will continue to speak up for Emsworth, demand the strongest possible mitigations, and fight for infrastructure that protects our town. But make no mistake, this is a symptom of a broken planning system that puts profit before people and long-term sustainability. We deserve better.

Cllr Charles Robert

Green Party

Local government reorganisation discussions continue. How do you feel about losing your local county and borough councillors to be replaced by a mayor of Hampshire with strategic powers over areas such as housing, environment and transport? The second tier of government will be a number of unitary authorities together covering the whole of Hampshire. Quite where the area we know as Havant fits into that is yet to be decided.

In my view, there will be a loss of democracy, especially as First Past the Post will be the method used to decide the outcome. I believe this is one of the least fair systems of voting. I brought a motion to Full Council to support a more democratic devolution process. This was passed, though not unanimously.

There have been discussions in Emsworth about the virtues of creating a local Town Council. There are both advantages and disadvantages of setting up a third tier of government. This could mean taking ownership and control of certain assets such as car parks and recreation areas. However, there would be costs associated with these assets that need to be considered.

Consultation on the draft local plan closed on 1 July 2025. Without a local plan, there is less control over what the mayor of Hampshire might decide is right for the area. There is a considerable shortfall in the number of houses allocated in the plan compared to the target set by the government. One can't rule out the element of risk that it will be rejected.

Lulu Bowerman

HCC Councillor for Emsworth and St Faith's

Hampshire Highways work continues at pace across 5,500 miles of roads due to the good weather we have enjoyed so far this summer and also thanks to a mild winter. Since November 2024 approximately 22,700 potholes and road defects have been repaired and almost 40,000m2 of structural carriageway patching completed. Hampshire remains the highest-performing county authority for highway maintenance in the southeast region.

However, I am sure there are still concerns locally such as the road surfacing around the central roundabout at Emsworth itself which I am chasing. Please report any concerns. www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problemor email me on lulu.bowerman@hants.gov.uk

The work continues on Devolution and Local Government Reform. I know these two subjects can be very confusing so I have tried to simplify both.

Devolution

The process for Devolution of Hampshire becoming a strategic authority with an elected mayor is gathering pace with candidates being selected in the next month or so and election campaigns will then begin. The mayoral elections will take place in May 2026. The new strategic authority will consist of Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight and will enable powers and funding to be transferred from central government

Local Government Reform

Discussions with the 11 local districts, Portsmouth, Southampton and Hampshire CC continue with the final deadline of 26 September for submissions to central government of how many unitary authorities there may be in the future. Key considerations include financial sustainability, management of key services and local democratic representation. A public consultation will take place on this in the next 12 months but voting for new unitary councillors will not take place until 2027/28 at the earliest.

Southleigh Relief Road

I attended a busy meeting at Warblington School on 24 June about the impact of the potential development of 2,000 houses in the Southleigh 'gap' between Emsworth and Denvilles. Everyone at the meeting was insistent about the need for an additional relief road as thousands more cars would make the local roads unusable, particularly Southleigh Road due to the level crossing. I will be working with Cllr Phil Munday, leader of HBC, to find the best solution. The land south of Bartons Road is still reserved for this purpose as is the land to the south of Castle Avenue but the costs of a relief road will have risen sharply since the last time it was costed in 2019 when the last Local Plan was completed, due to the impact of Covid and the war in Ukraine.

Good news - Highways officers have informed me that the long awaited speed restrictions of traffic slowing measures outside Emsworth Primary School in Victoria Road will finally be installed later this year.

Repair work on the footpath near Wade Lane on Langstone seawall will take place later this summer and a new board walk will be installed by HCC to ensure continued access to the King Charles III coastal walk. HBC will be carrying out necessary repairs to the sea wall.

I appreciate we are only in July but I want to give early notice that extensive work is scheduled to be carried out on Junction 10 on the M27 this Christmas with a complete road closure from the evening of Christmas Eve for 7 days to enable the new junction to be installed. Diversions will be in place but disruption will unfortunately be inevitable.

Part 26: East Dean Expedition

Words by Lupo, photographs by Juliet Walker

It has been so hot recently that Callie, Charlie and I had to leave our Ems walk till the last minute, when it had got slightly cooler. Even so, it was not the sort of day for dogs to walk too far, so my owner found us a shorter route with quite a bit of shade, starting and finishing at a dog friendly pub, which is always a good thing.

Our destination was East Dean in West Sussex. This might sound far away from Emsworth, but it was just a short car ride to a small village deep in the countryside. We were very pleased to be somewhere new and, what's more, off our leads for most of the way, for there were no farm animals to be seen. It was also a proper expedition. I know this, because there was much reference to maps and instructions.

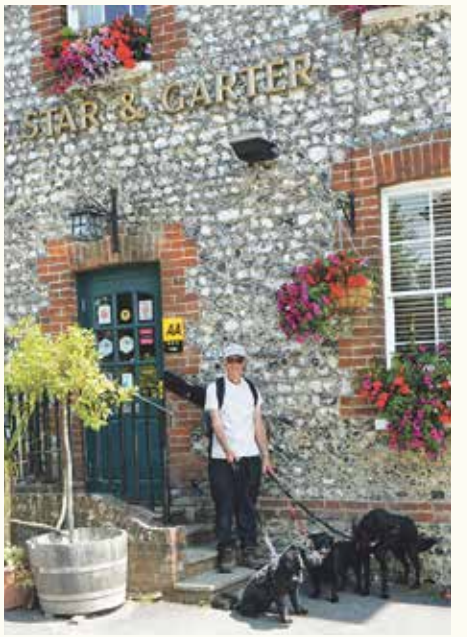
There was only a tiny stretch of tractor-filled road before we headed into the churchyard, with tall grasses swaying in the wind. I planned to search for voles, but this apparently wasn't an appropriate place for that, so we moved on past the church. We were soon going down sunken tracks and up chalk downland. It was here that my owner immediately started studying the ground intensely and crouching down excitedly to photograph blue flowers (yes - dogs can recognise blue!). She thought she had found the elusive county flower, 'The Pride of Sussex'. She was wrong. Vole hunting might have been more productive.

We climbed steadily, making progress along the steep sides of a valley, sometimes through fields and sometimes through woods. We met three dogs and exchanged a few sniffs with them, but otherwise it was quiet and deserted, even when we arrived at a farm, which was maybe just as well, for it was here that we faced our most embarrassing challenge. Things started promisingly, with the exploration by Callie and me - Charlie's legs being a bit short for this - of a raised trough.

Next it was just a matter of trotting to the corner of the field and taking a stile into the farmyard, but this was not simple at all particularly since the stile was engulfed by thistles and nettles. It was also like a vertical ladder with many close-set rungs, too small to squeeze through, and was not dog friendly at all. What were we to do? When my owner climbed over to look at the problem from the other side I had a sudden fear of being abandoned (*my Mummy!*) and began running back through the field to find another route. Eventually Charlie was passed, wriggling, over the top of the stile and Callie and I were partly lifted, partly pushed, through a narrow gap next to it.

We were glad to be together again and trooped along a track up to a barn where we turned off into woodland and faced a steep climb. We dogs achieved this much faster and more easily than the humans who made a bit of a meal of it. Once through this wood we were on a flinty track which looked across to the other side of the valley where we had already walked and headed back down to the village and to the nice pub for lunch. Here we all relaxed. We sat in the garden and had water from bowls saying 'Bone Appetite'. Our owners laughed at this, but we were not amused - for where were these bones?

Walk details – orange shorter route:
https://walksfromthedoor.co.uk/i/walks/WestSussex/EastDean/StarAndGarter.pdf



We were very pleased to be somewhere new and, what's more, off our leads for most of the way, for there were no farm animals to be seen.

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Emsworth Community Centre

Activities at Emsworth Community Centre

Regular Activities

Due to the recent building fire, we have had to make the Assembly Room off limits until we can have it restored to its original state. This has caused a change to our regular activities, and they have now been reduced or changed for many hirers. Everyone has been accommodating and understanding and incredibly supportive and we thank them for their help at such a sad time for us all. We are all back to business as usual with the four other rooms for hire. If you fancy starting a new activity or want to extend an existing activity, there is always room for more and they still come at a great price. We are also booking rooms for parties and special events at very reasonable prices.

Library re-opens
Emsworth library re-opened on Saturday 24 May. The library opening hours are:
Tuesday 9.30 -5; Thursday 9.30 – 5; Friday 9.30 -5; Saturday 9.30 – 1.30

Parents/Carers the Baby time and Rhyme time in the library
Every Thursday 10.00 – 10.30

The Galley Café
This is a wonderful place to meet. Open on Tuesday morning 10-12. It is a great little space and is open to all the community.

Dementia friendly Gardening,
Meet every first Thursday of the month; details on the poster and the website.

Our AGM Thurs 24 July 7pm start
Everyone is welcome to attend. The usual subjects will be discussed including expenditure and current affairs and we will include the update on the building fire incident that took place at the centre on 18 March 2025. There will also be refreshments after the meeting and time to discuss all the issues; this will be held in the galley café.

Tabletop Summer Sale Saturday 26 July, 10am – 2pm
Stall holders wanted, tables 6ft - £10 and 3ft - £5.
Come and join us, we have all kinds of items for sale including hand crafted gifts and jewellery at very reasonable prices.

The Centre Cinema, Films for a Fiver
The next set of films for July to Sept will be available on our website from 1 August. Entrance is still £5 including a drink and a biscuit.

Monday 14 July – 3:30 and 7:30 Showings – *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* (15) 125mins- Comedy
Our Community Cinema is at the heart of our social activity programme. Showings are 3:30 and 7:30 always on a Monday but not regular set dates, so check out our website for all information including a trailer of each film just before it's shown, and times and dates.
www.emsworthcommunitycentre

Annual General Meeting
Thursday 24th July
7pm

Everyone welcome
Followed by refreshments

SATURDAY 26TH JULY
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TABLE TOP SALE
North Street * Emsworth * PO10 7DD
10 AM – 2 PM
STALLHOLDERS WANTED
arts & crafts, cakes & bakes
toys, books, puzzles, jewellery,
accessories, household goods,
plants & preserves etc.
*No electrical goods, alcohol, knives please.
Book either: a £10 (6ft) large table - (we provide the table)
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email: info@emsworth.communitycentre.org.uk
www.emsworthcommunitycentre.org.uk

Check the website www.emsworthcommunitycentre email on Info@emsworthcommunitycentre.org.uk or call us on 01243 373805.
Our office is open 10:00 -14:00, 5 days a week, Mon – Fri.

We are located behind the Fire Station on North Street, Emsworth, through the public car park into Emsworth Community Centre's private carpark (limited parking so please only for use if you are taking a class or attending a meeting).

The Assembly Room after the fire

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• and much more

Havant Camera Club

Words by Brian Robinson

We are a friendly club for people of all ages and skill levels. You don't need the latest camera or the biggest lens; all that is needed is a love of photography. The Club meets every Tuesday evening between September and May. We meet at Emsworth Community Centre starting at 7.30 and new members are always welcome. The Club programme consists of a mixture of talks, competitions and members evenings. For further information please visit the Club's website at: www.havantcameraclub.co.uk

3's a Crowd

AGM

The club's recent AGM saw several change in the Club's officers with a new Chairman (Brian Robinson), Vice Chairman (Erich Poole) and Treasurer (Robert Whitaker). My thanks go to the outgoing officers for all their hard work and support. I am also pleased to announce a new Committee Member (Carrie Davidson) who I am sure will play a big part in the future of the Club.

Summer Outings

At the time of writing club members are enjoying the summer recess. However, the photography doesn't stop with four planned summer outings. The first is on Tuesday 24 June at Old Portsmouth starting at the Royal Garrison Church at 7.30. The second on Tuesday 8 July will be in and around Chichester City Centre meeting at The Cross at 7.30. The third outing will be at Titchfield Haven, again starting at 7.30 at the Visitor Centre, and the final outing will be at Chichester Marina on Tuesday 19 August. Collectively these outings are designed to provide a wide variety of photographic opportunities for club members.

Idsworth Church

Challenge Cup

Members are encouraged to submit pictures taken on any or all of the summer outings for entry in the Challenge Cup. This is a new competition especially for the summer outings and the final will take place on the first evening of the 2025/26 season. Judging for the competition will be by the members that are present on the night and the winner will be announced at the end of the evening.

Emsworth Show

Another date for the diary is Bank Holiday Monday 25 August when the Club will have a stall at the show. If you are going to the show please call in and we will provide you with any further information that you may require.

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News from our MP

Supporting local Health & Wellbeing

I was delighted to host my 4th annual Havant Constituency Health & Wellbeing Fair at Emsworth Baptist Church on 20 June. The Fair brought together more than 30 local health bodies, charities, community organisations and businesses to offer information and advice about physical and mental health. Residents were able to chat to a range of exhibitors that included Hayling & Emsworth Primary Care Network, Friends of Emsworth Community Health, Emsworth U3A, Emsworth Flower Club and Ems Valley Memorial Arboretum.

The Health & Wellbeing Fair has become an annual fixture ever since I launched it following the COVID-19 pandemic and Emsworth Baptist Church is an ideal location. I'd like to thank them for being so welcoming and helpful and also all the exhibitors and residents who made the Fair such a success.

Now attention turns to my 10th annual Jobs, Apprenticeships and Careers Fair at Bedhampton Community Centre on 19 SeptemberAs it's the Fair's 10th anniversary, I'm planning a special celebration and I'd love to see you there!

As your MP I've called on the Labour Government to apologise after its handling of the Winter Fuel Payment. The latest development is a partial u-turn from the Government on its decision to remove the payment from local pensioners. Some pensioners will now receive it, but many will not. Chancellor Rachel Reeves has not explained how the Government will pay the estimated £1.25bn cost of the u-turn - and many pensioners will still miss out. Taking away the Winter Fuel

Payment was a cruel political decision that hit thousands of pensioners locally, many of whom ended up facing a choice between heating and eating last winter.

When I spoke to people on the doorstep in Emsworth there was a strong feeling that the Government was wrong to have removed the payment.

While I'm pleased that putting pressure on the Government has resulted in it making a partial u-turn, I believe it should now apologise to pensioners for its original disastrous decision. If you agree, please sign my petition at www.AlanMak.org.uk/WinterFuelApology.

I'm also providing free Union and St George flags to constituents. To request one, please go to https://www.alanmak.org.uk/contact.

The best ways to stay up to date with the work I'm doing as your local MP all year round are to follow my social media accounts, especially Facebook (www.fb.com/AlanMakHavant), and sign up for my regular residents' email newsletter at https://www.alanmak.org.uk.

Y Zok

Emsworth residents are welcome to join one of my popular Houses of Parliament tours. You can enjoy a guided tour of the House of Commons, House of Lords and other parts of the Parliamentary estate before joining me for a private Q&A session. The coach leaves the Havant area at around 8.00am and returns around 5.30pm. If you're interested in coming, please register your interest at https://www.alanmak.org.uk/Tours.

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News from Thorney School

It was a pleasure to welcome back Brian Masters, who is an RNLI volunteer, to work with all the children on water safety. This is an annual event that Mr Hallam (Chair of Governors) likes the children to participate in, especially as the summer months approach and more children will be going to beaches both locally and further afield. Brian tries to make his presentation as practical and interactive as possible, so we split the school into 4 groups with Owl, Osprey and Falcon Classes having individual presentations while Key Stage 2 are spoken to as a group.

Let the Sun Shine. On your marks. Get set. Go!

Words by Louise New, Education Correspondent

As pupils all around our local schools engage in annual sports days, giving everything to claim victory for their class, house or team, I am reminded of how essential spending time outside is for our young people.

This term especially, schools embrace opportunities such as Forest School, beach events, charity walks and sports tournaments. As the sun shines, it is so joyous to see young people engage in healthy competition, physical activity and the fresh air. But all year round, schools are doing more and more to ensure that pupils get time to learn and develop outside of the classroom. It is increasingly essential for educators to provide these opportunities – in a world where mental health concerns and reliance on electronic screens are both rising exponentially.

'Fresh air is good for you', my grandad would always say. A simple, yet wholly accurate statement. The physical health benefits of time outside, especially engaging in physical activity, are perhaps the most obvious – improving motor skills, coordination and fitness, as well as encouraging better sleep in young (and not so young!) people. More time outside can also reduce stress and anxiety, and many of the activities on offer support pupils to build their resilience and confidence whilst tackling new challenges.

It isn't just about sport - the outdoor classroom is perhaps the only real way for our young people to truly learn about the earth's ecological systems and conservation issues, whilst also encouraging a connection to nature and exploring the vital concept of sustainability.

P Robbins

More time outside can reduce stress and anxiety and help pupils to build their resilience and confidence whilst tackling new challenges.

But the even greater power, in terms of learning, is that the time outside can then have such a positive impact on time back in the more traditional classroom – with proven increased engagement, motivation and ability to problem-solve.

Back to sports day: what better way to develop team work, communication and leadership skills, a healthy sense of competition and also humility? There is perhaps nothing more humbling than coming in last in the 800m, but being passionately cheered on and congratulated by your peers.

So yes, this year's Sports Day may ultimately - and predominantly - be the culmination of this year's House Cup. But it is also just one example of the essential ways our schools are also making the most of outdoor experiences. Let's just hope the sun keeps shining!

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Heritage

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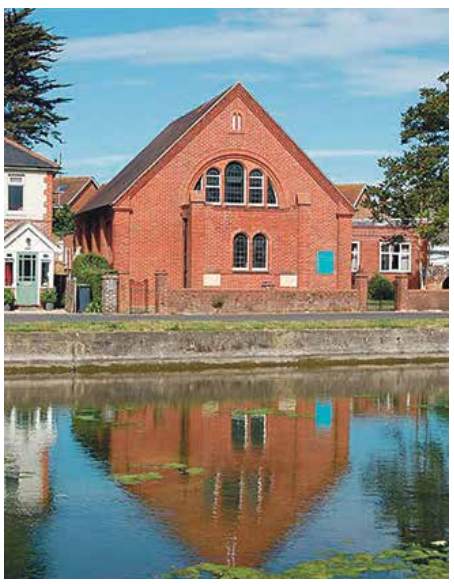
Historic Heroines of Emsworth

By Mike Blatch

Women have struggled for equal rights throughout history. The small number of wealthy women who were once allowed to vote before the Reform Act in 1832 lost the right despite the Act increasing the number of eligible voters from 400,000 to 650,000. It took almost 100 years before women were granted selective voting rights in 1918 and finally equal voting rights under the Equal Franchise Act of 1928.

Despite the ongoing struggle against inequality, women have always played a central role. Emsworth has certainly never been short of incredible women. So, here are just a few of my favourite historic Emsworth heroines.

Despite being the largest settlement in the parish of Warblington, Emsworth didn't have a Church of England church until 1840. Whilst nonconformists had greater flexibility, members of the Church of England were expected to walk the mile and half to Warblington and back. In winter, when it was freezing cold, raining and the wind whipping off the harbour, this was a grim ordeal. If you were lucky enough to own a carriage or even a horse, the trip was less arduous but for the poor there was no such luxury, no modern clothing and, on arrival, a long cold sit through the service before trudging home.



In 1789 a few worthy residents built St Peter's Chapel of Ease in the Square to enable local people to worship without the long walk. However, fearing the impact on his congregation the minister of St Thomas-a-Becket refused to sanction the chapel. This meant there was no funding; instead the church had to raise money by charging for pews. So, while it saved a journey to Warblington for the better off, it didn't help the poor.

Olive Holloway

In 1800, a local girl, Olive Holloway, started an independent congregational church at the family home on South Street, the building that is now the Rowan's Hospice shop. Olive is said to have been a wonderful orator and her services were open to all, regardless of their status or income.

In 1808 Olive Holloway was able to build the Nile Street Congregational church which served the town until it was replaced by a building in Bath Road in 1929. This building became a warehouse and was eventually demolished and is now private housing. The United Reform Church (URC) was formed by the union in 1972 of the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church. Emsworth URC church in Bath Road closed in December 2024.

Her future husband, the Reverend Thomas Helmore, would often attend but Olive was always the highlight, the drive and inspiration. Sadly, there were people within the community who believed that a woman had no right to preach the word of God. Olive was subjected to verbal abuse, spat at in the street and mistreated by a small but vindictive group. At one point they even broke into the chapel and lifted out the pulpit, dumping it in the millpond. On another occasion objectors filled a water pump full of blood from the butchers, planning to spray her in public as she left the chapel, but in their stupidity, they hadn't considered that blood congeals, so the plan backfired.

Sadly, there were people within the community who believed Olive had no right to preach the word of God

Despite the extreme provocation Olive continued to champion the people, preaching to a growing and dedicated congregation. Eventually she married Reverend Helmore and in 1820 they moved to a parish in Stratford upon Avon. However, the chapel continued to thrive, moving to Bath Road in 1920, where it continued to hold services until 2024.

Mrs Sengar

It often occurs to me that Olive Holloway probably knew a Mrs Sengar (sadly I don't know her first name), who worked for the shipwright John King in the late 1700s. Sadly I don't have much information on Mrs Sengar other than knowing that she was the star of the show when John King's boatyard was under siege from a press gang. He had locked all his workers behind the gates to prevent the gang seizing his men, but the gang refused to go, assuming that at some point the men would need to leave. Meanwhile, Mrs Sengar galloped on a horse to the Admiralty at Portsmouth. Through force of character, she got to see the appropriate authorities, made it very clear that Mr King had no intention of supplying a navy that stole his workers, and managed to obtain an exemption and safe passage for all John King employees. I can imagine the cheers and jubilation as she rode back to the yard and delivered the exemption to the surly press gang boss.

Mrs Sengar was star of the show when John King's boatyard was under siege from a press gang

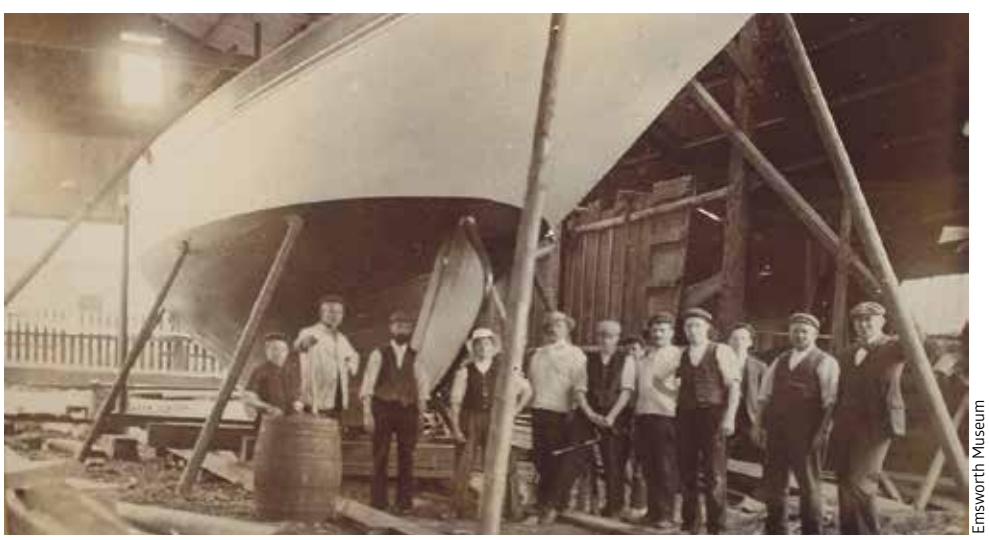
At just 18 years old, Isobel grabbed the reins and drove the engine through howling winds and horizontal rain to get them to the fire

Isobel Silver

Horses played a key role in Emsworth transport well into the 1900s. One of the suppliers of horses and carriages for work and leisure was the Silver family, who lived at Brook Farm on North Street. Isobel Silver was their daughter and recognised as an excellent horsewoman and carriage driver. At the outbreak of a fire at Blendworth House in 1917, Emsworth's fire carriage was still pulled by horses. The fire was caused by a terrible storm. Lightning struck the building and a vicious wind quickly spread the flames. As the Emsworth fire crew mustered, they were short of a driver and the clock was ticking. At just 18 years old, Isobel grabbed the reins and drove the engine through howling winds and horizontal rain to get them to the fire in time to make a difference. She was central to operations and when the fire was finally quashed drove them tired and exhausted back to the station. Isobel made national news as the heroine of the hour!

These are just a few of the many women whose strength and character have helped shape Emsworth's history.

To book a history walk of Emsworth visit https://www.emswalk.co.uk



Emsworth Museum

OBITUARY

Brian Fellows (1936 -2025)

Comprising excerpts from tributes and other information compiled by Colin Brotherston

Sadly Brian Fellows passed away at home on 3 May 2025 aged 88. Born 1936, Brian was brought up in Smethwick and studied at Bristol University attaining a doctorate in Philosophy and Psychology. He moved to Emsworth in 1968 and spent much of his career at Portsmouth Polytechnic/ University. On his retirement Brian joined Hampshire and the IOW Wildlife Trust. He was a founder member of Brook Meadow Conservation Group in Year 2000 and Chairman for the first 6 years. Since then he has been active in wildlife recording, publishing a wildlife blog and maintaining the website and display cases.

Not only did Brian enable Brook Meadow to become and develop as a nature conservation area, but he also established Emsworth Waysides, the first of which was next to Bridge Road car park, and thus helped to preserve the diversity of the plants there and maintain a small haven for wildlife. He also hosted a blog and a participated in a WhatsApp group, the latter having an enthusiastic membership.

Brian had such an enthusiasm for wildlife, coupled with an infectious laugh.

He had an amazing wealth of knowledge about birds, all manner of insects, wildflowers, grasses, mosses, sedges; you name it and he could identify it. He built up this knowledge over many years all self-taught. He made every effort to keep everyone informed about local nature resources in the most informative and caring way.

Brian combined amazing knowledge with a quiet modesty. An inspirational man who encouraged many amateur naturalists, he will be much missed. Thanks to Brian, Brook Meadow is now an excellent asset for Emsworth and its community. Young school visitors will make happy memories. Current and future custodians of the site will be proud to continue his work. Brian was awarded the BEM (British Empire Medal) in the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours List for his contribution to nature conservation in Hampshire. Brian leaves his widow Jean, three sons and a daughter.

www.bmcg.org.uk

Emsworth Cricketers support Cystic Fibrosis Trust

Imagine taking a holiday flight to Amsterdam but, surprisingly, landing in Brussels. It's not quite the trip you imagined but there are plenty of good times still to be had. A reset of expectations is required. It's a similar feeling for parents giving birth to a baby with physical or learning difficulties. It may not be the destination you were expecting, but, with support, the journey can be just as rewarding.

One member found themselves in such a situation and that was the reason Emsworth Cricket Club held a Charity Cricket day in support of Cystic Fibrosis Trust (CFT). He has a daughter with CF and the club thought it would be an excellent idea to support CFT in their work helping parents with their children.

On a warm Sunday in May, 6 teams of 6 players played a very friendly competition. Each team had a mix of men, women and juniors with a handicap system in place for the regular cricketers. The whole event was supported by side stalls; Pizza at the park, Ree Bee Scents, tea, coffee and cakes, a bouncy castle, a hole in one putting competition and a coconut shy (but without the coconuts - stumps and bails instead!)

As well as the friends and family of those taking part visiting the event, many passers-by were drawn in and helped raise a fantastic £736.28.

It was a joy to see so many people taking part in an event raising money for such a great cause.

Our thanks go to all those who supported the event in any small way and especially those who contributed some fantastic prizes for our raffle: The Ropemaker, Driftwood, Darbar, James Moore (Rowlands Castle GC Pro), Rowlands Castle Golf Club, The Lord Raglan, The White Horse, Westbourne, VX3 kit supplier and NXT kit supplier. A fun day was had by all.

Poet Laureate Simon Armitage Returns to New Theatre Royal to Hold Special Evening of Readings

Following the success of his appearance in 2024, New Theatre Royal in Portsmouth is thrilled to host Poet Laureate Simon Armitage for another exclusive evening of poetry and conversation on 14 July 2025 at 7.30 pm; standard ticket £20. This highly anticipated event offers an opportunity to hear one of the most celebrated literary voices of our time. The evening will include an interactive audience Q&A session, giving attendees a chance to engage directly with Simon, followed by an exclusive book signing session.

Widely regarded as one of the most influential poets of his generation, Simon Armitage's literary credentials are unparalleled. His work has earned him numerous accolades, including the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry and an Ivor Novello Award for songwriting. Prior to An Evening with Simon Armitage, he will be inspiring young people with a morning of reading poems from the national curriculum to local school children. Working alongside Portsmouth City Council, this schools' event gives students the opportunity to hear directly from the poet about his life and craft.

Tickets for An Evening with Simon Armitage can be accessed via box office https://www.newtheatreroyal.com/

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Emsworth Residents Forum

Letter from the Chair

Words by Dwynwen Stepien,
Chair of the Emsworth Residents Forum

It seems that every time I sit down to write this report, there is a momentous event taking place - and this week is no exception.
But we must focus where we can make a difference and where our voice matters, so it was great satisfaction to receive the notice from Havant Borough Council that the outline planning application for 210 dwellings north of Long Copse Lane has been withdrawn. The tireless efforts of the Save Long Copse Lane Action Group, supported by the EMS, seem to have paid off. So far. The next step is to have this site removed from the draft Local Plan.

Many of you attended the consultation for Bloor Homes' Southleigh development, and it was clear that one concern dominated the room - the impact on roads and infrastructure. We need a strong, united voice in these discussions. Working closely with neighbouring communities - including Denvilles (part of St Faith's ward) and Westbourne Parish - we will advocate for a properly planned transport solution, including a vital link road to the A27. This will be a long-term campaign, already begun by the Forum. The need for sustained, strategic pressure is clear.

One area of urgent concern is Hollybank pavilion and recreation ground. There has been under-investment for many years and the pavilion is in need of renovation and transformation. Emsworth has successful football teams and with the identified need for activities for young people, we particularly want to support the Emsworth Town Youth Football team (www.emsworth-townyouthfc.org.uk). The club brings together families and young people building skills and relationships, developing a strong community focus. If the town council owned this asset, could it make a difference? It could improve pitch quality, better manage use, renovate the pavilion with community support, and help address anti-social behaviour by increasing positive engagement. With improved cricket and football pitches, it would bring in more paying customers which would help raise funds for sustainable improvement.

Current discussions involving Havant Borough Council, the football club, and the Community Land Trust aim to explore how this site could become a model of town council stewardship. We hope to see progress in the year ahead - and to support both our football and cricket teams and environmental partners in making this vision a reality.

Our democracy is not perfect, but it offers us the ability to hold people to account and influence change from the ground up. There are lots of examples in Emsworth where residents have come together and have been heard – including the cottage hospital transformed to our GP surgery; the library saved and placed in the community centre. So we will continue to work together and have our voice heard. Please give some thought as to how you feel about creating a town council and if that would help to shape Emsworth's future.

The cottage hospital transformed into a GP surgery is an example of how our community works together

Emsworth Residents Forum

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Facebook page: www.facebook.com/emsworthresidents

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Spring 2026	Friday 27 March	Thurs 9 April
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Dan Grove - (Environment)

Andrew Caple

ERF PUBLIC MEETING DATES
All residents are welcome to attend our public meetings which are held at Emsworth Community Centre, North St, Emsworth

Monday 21 July 2025

7 pm A Town Council for Emsworth – the Way Ahead.

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Public meeting about Town Councils

On 5 June 2025 over 50 residents attended a special ERF presentation and meeting about Town/Parish councils.

Dwyn Stepien introduced the topic and Dawn Hamblet, Chief Executive of Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) gave a talk about the role of HALC in supporting Parish/Town Councils. She gave the example of Newlands Parish Council which was recently created to cover the West of Waterlooville major development area. This is a big housing development west of the A3 which is in the Winchester District Council area. There was a Q & A session afterwards but there were no objections put forward to exploring the feasibility of a Town/Parish council for Emsworth.

Media coverage of Town Council initiative

The BBC picked up on our interest in becoming a Town Council. Dwynwen Stepien (ERF Chair) was interviewed on BBC's Politics South programme.
www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m002dsxn/politics-south-15062025
www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czel40x3erno

Emsworth Community Garden

Emsworth Community Garden, located in Victoria Road and now into its second year, continues to thrive thanks to the efforts of a small, dedicated team of volunteers led by Kathy Parker.

The polytunnel, constructed during the winter months, was used to great effect to germinate a wide variety of vegetable seedlings which were then planted out in the spring. Everything from spinach to strawberries and many more vegetables are now growing and will soon be ready to harvest.

The unusually hot spring weather meant that the garden needed watering on an almost daily basis and a rota of volunteers was set up to make sure all our plants survived. Unfortunately, this regular watering also encouraged the weeds to grow and our efforts to establish a wild grass and flower area in the orchard has proved challenging. Regular weeding has been required but we hope by next year to have it looking like something of which King Charles would approve.

we hope by next year to have it looking like something of which King Charles would approve

We plan to donate vegetables to the Food Bank at the One Church in Emsworth as they mature. We also hope to sell any excess fruit and vegetables at Emsworth Show on August Bank Holiday Monday. We are always looking for more volunteers to work in the garden. We meet regularly on Wednesday afternoon (14:00 to 16:00) and Saturday morning (10:00 to 12:00) throughout the year.

Why not come along and grow your own vegetables or just help with work in the garden? There is always plenty to do. If you would like to join us please contact Kathy Parker on WhatsApp (07415 378564) or just pop along on Wednesday or Saturday.

VE Day concert

There was live music with The Andy Beaumont Big Band (Glen Miller etc.) to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day at Emsworth Community Centre on 8 May. The concert was organised by ERF and Wemsfest. Over 100 people attended this event.

ERF Membership Secretary Vacancy (volunteer post)

The ERF is looking for a volunteer to take over the role of Membership Secretary. You would be joining a team of enthusiastic people to help with the running of the ERF.

Duties include:

- Maintaining a database of members which is connected to the payment system. This takes 1 -3 hours a month (see https://membermojo.co.uk/)
- Attending ERF committee meetings which are held bi-monthly (up to 2 hours)
- Attending ERF quarterly public meetings
- Producing and implementing campaigns to increase membership

You should have good IT skills, attention to detail and be able to work from home

If you are interested, please contact:
ellie.turnbull10@gmail.com

By Suzy Gardiner, Sports Correspondent
Email: sport.theems@gmail.com

Sports & Recreation

Emsworth Town Football Club

Emsworth Town have completed a stunning treble trophy winning season. The Oystermen became Mid Solent League champions by going the entire league season undefeated (19 wins, 1 draw, 0 losses).

Emsworth Town became Father Purcell Cup winners by beating Portchester Rovers in the final at Westleigh Park in front of a decent crowd; and last, but not least, becoming Champions of Hampshire, by winning the Hampshire FA County Cup Saturday Vase, beating Southampton side AFC Solent in the final at Winklebury Football Complex.

Table Tennis in Emsworth

With the recent fire at our Community Centre in Emsworth, I was interested to catch up with Stephen Long who runs our incredible local Table Tennis club who use the centre several times each week.

Steve confirmed that as it was only the two assembly rooms that were damaged (and still not available) the table tennis was able to resume as soon as the centre opened again. Steve commented, "Our club players that come on Wednesday and Friday afternoons and the Sunday evening are so keen I'm sure they would have played in the car park. Since the start of the year, in the numbers attending the three sessions, we are averaging just over 50 people per week. It's amazing - and almost every week we get a new player."

Top: Vah Ly, Dwynwen Stepien and Steve Gotham. Above: three of the four strong team, Steve Long, Paul Fitzgerald and Joe Watkins. Alan Gess completes their team.

The 2024/25 Portsmouth Winter League season finished at the end of March. We had five teams in the league which consisted of three divisions. One of our teams won Division Three. That team also won the Stannard Shield cup competition. They are the Emsworth Buccaneers.

We have also recently started the South East Hampshire Summer League. This will finish end of July/beginning of August. We have four Emsworth teams that have entered. Steve's own team, the Emsworth Eagles, finished fifth in the top division (One).

Congratulations to this incredible club and to Steve who works so hard to manage it so well.

Avenue Tennis Club

On Bank Holiday Monday 5 May the Avenue Lawn Tennis, Squash & Fitness Club held an unusual tennis tournament in aid of The Rowan's Hospice and in memory of a much-loved member, Emsworth resident Mary Knight, who passed away on 1 January. Mary was an active member, playing regularly until just four weeks before she died, and when friends told her they would hold a tournament in her memory, she gave specific instructions to Head Coach, Ashley Neaves, also known as 'The Tennis Mentor', how she wanted it to be organised. Mary instructed that everyone must wear a flower, and she asked if the game could incorporate snakes and ladders so that anyone could have a chance to win. Little did she know that she was inventing a new way to play tennis!

Ashley, former National Coach of the Year, used his ingenuity to fulfil Mary's wishes, though just a few minutes before the 40 participants were due to start playing on the Avenue's 10 wonderful Wimbledon-rated grass courts, the heavens opened and a short shower rendered them unplayable. Undeterred, Ashley quickly freed up four clay courts, moving lessons onto AstroTurf courts, and the 40 adults became children again playing kids' games for two hours. Much fun was had by all and Mary's daughters and grandchildren chipped in to assist moving numbered stones up ladders and down snakes on a large outdoor board.

A raffle was held and players and supporters tucked into an array of home-made cakes. The day reflected Mary's warm, loving character and there was a celebratory atmosphere at the Club. Her family was overwhelmed and agreed it was a unique, fitting way to remember their wife, mother and grandmother.

Lily from the Rowans Hospice came to receive the proceeds from the day and she was delighted accept the £1,586.23 raised. Members were saddened to learn that due to rising costs, including the recent increase in Employers' NI contributions, the hospice has had to make cuts, including making some staff redundant, closing the shop and, worse still, some beds. They must raise £10m per annum to run the hospice and rely heavily on the generosity of the general public and volunteers organising fundraising events.

If you would like to support their work, please visit https://www.rowanshospice.co.uk.

Chichester Harbour Race Week 2025 – 11 - 15 August – Enter Now

Book your place at the biggest dinghy and keelboat regatta in the UK. With the website open, you can now reserve your place in this year's 'must attend' event.

Starting on Monday 11 August, the five days of racing are hosted by Hayling Island Sailing Club, the UK's premier championship venue.

This event is hugely popular amongst racers across Chichester Harbour and attracting sailors from 59 clubs across the UK and beyond. Last year nearly 600 competitors in 383 boats attended this prestigious five-day event. Separate events will be provided for the nineteen fleets, run by four separate race teams. There will be something for everyone, from our 'hotshot' youth sailors to former World and Olympic champions. Off the water evening events throughout the week will keep our sailors and their families entertained.

The Sailing Secretary of the Chichester Harbour Federation, Pam Marrs, said "Taking advantage of the 'Early Bird' entry means the five days entry for a two-person youth boat is only £59 and the same for two adults only £80. Keeping the event affordable and value for money is key to Race Week's success".

Follow the link to enter now: https://chichesterharbourraceweek.sailevent.net/

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Community Groups & Activities

Young Persons' Day

Arts & Crafts Groups

Bench Theatre: Club nights first and third Thursday of month at The Spring, East Street, Havant. Contact: Janice Halsey secretary@benchtheatre.org.uk

Bourne Quilters: 7.15pm, first Monday of month, Emsworth Community Centre, North Street. Contact Chris Barrell 07585 55916

Emsworth Art Group meets at the Emsworth Community Centre on Wednesday mornings. We are an active and cooperative group of artists working at all levels and with two exhibitions per year. There is a waiting list to join. Please contact the secretary, Trevor Smith on atrevorsmith@gmail.com

Emsworth Flower Club: 2pm, fourth Friday of month, St James' Church Hall, Church Path. Contact Claire Nutbrown, Secretary emsworthflowerclub@gmail.com

Emsworth Meridian Singers and Choir: 7.45pm-9.15pm, main choir meets Thursdays, Emsworth Community Centre, North Street. Contact Louise Russell 07985 606670 louise.slrussell@outlook.com

Emsworth Players: Drama group. Contact Jim Strudwick 01243 372543, jim.strudwick@yahoo.co.uk

Emsworth Watercolours for Improvers. 1.45 – 3.45 Mondays at The Waterside Church Hall, Bath Road, Emsworth. Contact David Moignard 02392 267498 or 07308258669

Havant Camera Club. Tuesday 7.30 pm at Emsworth Community Centre. Contact Peter on 07498 758694 or via our website www.havantcameraclub.co.uk

Havant Light Opera: 7.30pm, Mondays at The Spring Arts & Heritage Centre, East Street, Havant. Contact Judy Halpin 02392 570545, www.havantlightopera.co.uk

Hole in the Wall Group, Clive Yeomans Pottery: Facilities are behind the Emsworth Community Centre. Email: hitwg.pottery@gmail.com

Heart Art Club. Classes held at rear of Jingles Hotel, Horndean Road, Emsworth. Email: iheartartclub@gmail.com. Thursday 6-7pm secondary sketch club. Friday 10-11am adult art club. Saturday 10-10.45 Saturday sketch club. All at Blooms Cafe.

Institches Stitch group. Knit, stitch, crochet. Fridays, free drop in, 10am to 12pm at Methodist Church in The Square Emsworth. We are about friendship, fun and laughter. Contact Judy Williams on Judywilliams9@googlemail.com. or 07906 214963

Renaissance Choir: Rehearsals, 7.30pm-9.30pm, Fridays at Emsworth Community Centre.
More info www.renaissancechoir.org.uk

Social Singing for retired people. The group consists of a cup of tea, a biscuit, a chat and some singing of some pop songs and show tunes. The main purpose of the group is to get people out, sing a few memorable tunes and meet some new faces. This group meets at Emsworth Sports & Social Club, Havant Road, Emsworth on Wednesdays 2.30pm -3.30pm (term time only) For more information contact Becky White, tel 07889 457540 email: beckywhitemusic@gmail.com

Solent Male Voice Choir: 7.30pm, Tuesdays at in The Pallant Centre, Havant. Membership open to all men 18 years+. No musical ability required, just enthusiasm. Contact Dave McVittie dmcv@solentmalevoicechoir.org, www.solentmalevoicechoir.org

Village Voices Choir, Emsworth. We rehearse at The Methodist Church Emsworth - Wednesdays 7.30pm. We welcome interest from singers with experience singing in harmony and knowledge of following scores - see website: http://emsworthvillagevoices.org Next Concert: 25th June 3.30pm Southbourne Village Hall.

Children & Youth Groups

Babies, Biscuits and Banter: Suitable for babies and young toddlers. 10am to 11:30am in the Parish Office, next to the Parish Hall in Church Path PO10 7DP. Contact Parish Administrator 01243 372428, parishofficewwe@gmail.com

Boys' Brigade (3rd): 6.15 pm-7.30 pm, Tuesdays in term time, for boys from Year R to Year 9. We are now based at Christian Youth Enterprises (CYE), Chidham, PO18 8TE. Contact the Captain: Mark Gidney 07837 005876. Email captain@emsworthboysbrigade.co.uk

Girls' Brigade (1st): 5.45 pm-7.15 pm, Tuesdays, for 4-10 years and 7pm-8.30pm, Tuesdays, 10-18 years, Emsworth Baptist Church Hall, North Street. Contact: Eleanor Day 0776 250 2380

Melana Dance: classes for young people up to 20 years, pre-school 'music and movement' classes and adult tap dancing at Emsworth Community Centre, North Street. Contact: Louisa Chandler 07717 327200

Mumbabas Monkeys is important for mums with young toddlers, to meet other mums and have a fun time. They perform traditional nursery rhymes and action songs which are accompanied by Becky on keyboards. Wednesdays (term time only) from 9.45am – 10.30am at Emsworth Sports and Social Club, Havant Rd, Emsworth. For more information contact Becky White, tel 07889 457540 email: beckywhitemusic@gmail.com

Mumbaba Ducklings for mothers and babies. They perform traditional nursery rhymes and action songs which are accompanied by Becky on keyboards. Wednesdays (term time only) from 10.45am – 11.30am at Emsworth Sports and Social Club , Havant Rd, Emsworth. For more information contact Becky White, tel 07889 457540 email: beckywhitemusic@gmail.com

One Youth - We meet every Friday during term time, 7-9pm at One Church (formerly New Life Church), Thorney Road. For young people in years 6 - College. 01243 373566. youth@onechurch.fyi

Scouts: Livingstone Cub Pack, Beaver Section, Drake Cub Pack, Explorers, Scout Troop, all meet at the Scout Hut, Conigar Road. Contact: membership@emsworth-scouts.org.uk

Topspin Table Tennis: 6pm-7.30pm, Tuesdays during term time, for 9-18 years with coaching and development at Emsworth Community Centre, just turn-up and play. Contact: 01243 373566

Churches & Religious Groups

Baptist Church: North Street, Emsworth. Contact: 01243 375606

Methodist Church and Pastoral Centre: The Square, Emsworth. Contact: 01243 373773

One Church (formerly New Life Christian Church) : Thorney Road. Main contact: 01243 373566. Chapel every Wednesday during term time at 10am, Sunday 9:30am & 11:30am

St James' Church (CofE): The Rectory, Church Path. Contact: 01243 372428

St Thomas' Church (Roman Catholic): 24 New Brighton Road. Contact: 02392 484520

St Thomas à Becket (CofE): Church Lane, Warblington. Contact: 01243 372428

Community Organisations

Community First: Services in the area such as community transport and Shop Mobility. Contact 0300 500 8085, support@cfirst.org.uk, www.cfirst.org.uk

Ems Valley Community Transport: Volunteer driver car service for those unable to use public transport. Journeys to hospital, GP surgery, dentists, social events and shopping although medical journeys take precedence. All enquiries including how to volunteer contact: Tel 07481 179 203, 01243 371093 email. evctsec@gmail.com www.evctcars.org

Emsworth Business Association: Closed

Emsworth Community Association: To promote the health and wellbeing of the inhabitants of Emsworth and neighbouring areas by providing education, recreation and social activities in premises which are both comfortable and accessible to all. Emsworth Community Centre, North Street. 10am-12 noon, Monday to Friday. Contact: 01243 373805, info@emsworthcommunitycentre.org.uk

Emsworth Community Land Trust: Creating affordable homes and community spaces. New members and volunteers welcome. Contact: Ellie Turnbull, Secretary 01243 432548, info@emsworthclt.org.uk, www.emsworthclt.org.uk

Emsworth Good Neighbours: Offers help with transport to hospitals, medical appointments, shopping, befriending, collecting prescriptions etc. Contact: 01243 430999, info@emsworthgoodneighbours.org.uk, www.emsworthgoodneighbours.org.uk

Emsworth Horticultural Society: Organises Emsworth Show, horticultural supplies hut at Washington Road, talks and coach outings. Contact: Lyn Davies, Chair, 01243 373810 ehschair@outlook.com www.emsworthhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

Emsworth Library: Opening hours are: Tuesday 9.30 am – 5 pm. Thursday 9.30 am – 5 pm. Friday 9.30 am – 5 pm. Saturday 9.30 am – 1.30 pm. (Closed Monday, Wednesday and Sunday) Emsworth Community Centre, North St, Emsworth. Contact: 0845 6035631 emsworth.library@hants.gov.uk, www.hants.gov.uk/library

Emsworth Morning Women's Institute: Meetings held on the 2nd Friday of the month at 9.45 am (except August) in Emsworth Community Centre. Contact: Diana Pallett (President): 01243 681910

Emsworth Museum: 10B North Street (on the first floor of the building – above the Fire Station) Access from the adjacent car park. Open to visitors from April – October on Saturdays, most Bank Holidays and Fridays in August 10.30 am – 4.30 pm and on Sundays 1.30pm – 4.30pm. Admission free. Stairlift available. For more information 01243 378091 info@emsworthmuseum.org.uk www.emsworthmuseum.org.uk

Emsworth Probus Club: Retired businessmen who meet at the Brookfield Hotel for lunch on the last Monday of each month. Contact: P Keough 01243 373436 or Peter Spreckley 01243 371390. Annual subscription is £15.00 plus lunch costs.

Emsworth Residents Forum. Formed in 2023 through the merger of Emsworth Residents' Association and Emsworth Forum. Independent, non-partisan organisation run by volunteers that work to represent the interests of the whole community to help make Emsworth a pleasant, safe and caring place to live and work. The organisation is recognised by Havant Borough Council as a statutory consultee on planning matters. New members and volunteers are always welcome. www.emsworthresidentsforum.org.uk. Publisher of The Ems newspaper editor.theems@outlook.com. https://issuu.com/theems

Emsworth-St Aubin Twinning Association: For information and activities between both towns contact John Auric, Membership

Secretary 01243 379018 or Judi Milburn, Chair 02392 471645, www.emsworthstaubin.org.uk

Emsworth Trefoil Guild: Social group for all ex-guiders or girl guides. Meets at Methodist International Hall, The Square, Emsworth on the first Monday of each month from 2 p.m. to 4 pm. New members welcome. Contact: Marion Lea 01243 376886, marionlea7@hotmail.com

Friends of Emsworth Community Health: Supports organisations providing health-related facilities in Emsworth. Contact Irene Craig 01243 378635 Email: irenecraig71@gmail.com

Havant Friends of the Earth: Contact Patricia Williamson 01243 378560. Membership secretary p.ivy@tiscali.co.uk

Havant Rotary Club: Meets every Monday at 6pm at Bear Hotel, East Street, Havant. Contact: Ian Swinton 01243 251776

Hewitt's: 35 South Street. Art gallery, gift shop and hall for hire. Contact: 01243 213600

Love Your Neighbour Campaign - to support families and individuals who may be struggling financially, or require food parcels. Together with support from local councils, schools and healthcare professionals they receive referrals of people who would benefit from this initiative. For more information and referrals, call 07835 441076.

Mothers' Union: Contact Margaret Cornick, Secretary 01243 378044

Royal National Lifeboat Institution,
Emsworth Branch: Contact Caroline Tilley 01243 699451
Email: Carolinetilley@yahoo.com

St John Ambulance: Fraser Road, Havant. Contact: Jennifer.quibell@sja.org.uk

University of the Third Age, Emsworth u3a: Over 30 subject groups that meet monthly. 10.15am, third Friday of month, except August and December. General meeting at St James Church Hall, Church Path. Contact: Hazel Irwin, Membership Secretary, 01243 940310, Hazel.i@btinternet.com www.emsworthu3a.org.uk

University of the Third Age, Ems Valley u3a: Over 50 subject groups that meet monthly. General meeting on fourth Thursday of month a t 2pm (except August and December) at Emsworth Baptist Church, North St. Contact: Tim Mathews, Chair www.emsvalleyu3a.org.uk

Westbourne Bell-Ringers: Westbourne Church, Westbourne Road. Practice 7pm-9pm on Mondays. Service ringing on Sundays. Contact: Tower Captain Peter Wilkinson, westbourne@SCACR.org.uk or Jason Crouch 07802 474899.

WemsFest: World music and comedy at local venues. Contact: Mark Millington-Ringwood, Artistic Director 01243 370501, 07802 500050, www.wemsfest.com

Health Organisations

Adult Ballet. Inclusive dance classes of various types including Gentle Ballet and Chair Based Ballet. Contact Caroline on 07783962700 or email c_twitchen@hotmail.com

Arthritis First: Exercise classes for those with mobility problems, or any type of arthritis wishing to increase your strength, flexibility, balance and mobility. Run by experienced Chartered Physiotherapist Shirley Inkpen. All ages and abilities welcome. Exercises individually tailored. Emsworth Community Centre. Tuesdays at 9.55 am and 11.05 am. (Zoom available at 09.55). Contact Shirley 07809 255152, email islandphysioshirley@gmail.com

Brendoncare Emsworth Keep Fit 1: shape up with Sally, 10am-11am, Thursdays term time. Emsworth Community Centre, North Street. Contact 01962 857099, www.brendoncare.org.uk/clubs

Brendoncare Emsworth Keep Fit 2: shape up with Sally, 11.30am-12.30pm, Thursdays term time. Emsworth Community Centre, North Street. Contact 01962 857099, www.brendoncare.org.uk/clubs

Brendoncare Emsworth Kurling Club, 2pm-4pm, Mondays. Emsworth Community Centre, North Street. Contact 01962 857099, www.brendoncare.org.uk/clubs

Emsworth Medical Practice: 6 North Street. Contact: 01243 378812. www.emsworthmedical.co.uk

MHA Singing for the Mind: dementia friendly singing group. 10am-12noon, second Friday of each month. St James' Church Parish Hall. Contact: 023 9387 8777, havant@rightathomeuk.com

Patient Participation Group (PPG). For more information contact: Jim Strudwick, Chairman. j.strudwick35@gmail.com 01243 372543

Southbourne Surgery: 337 Main Road, Southbourne. Contact 01243 388740, www.southbournesurgery.com

Ramblers Wellbeing Walks in Emsworth (formerly Walking to Health) Wednesdays 10:30 am starting at various local locations. Free, short, safe walks aimed at all ages and abilities. Walks are in and around Emsworth and neighbouring villages. Contact: Rob Self 02392 484412 / robertself@ntworld.com or John Bond 01243 376302 bond.jab7@gmail.com

Sing2Health Emsworth. Breathe, move, sing, and smile. Join our fun, friendly and inclusive singing group using evidence-based exercises and songs to support health and wellbeing. Thursdays 11-12, Emsworth Community. Centre. www.sing2health.com/groups

Nature Conservation

Brook Meadow Conservation Group: 10am-12noon, first Sunday and third Thursday of every month. Meet at Seagull Lane entrance by HQ/Tool store. Tools and gloves supplied, and refreshments. Contact:brookmeadowcg@outlook.com, 07779 759696

Emsworth Tree Wardens: Taking care of trees in Emsworth and surrounding area. Various ongoing tree-related projects. Contact Yvonne Copeland 01243 389877

Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden: Helping to maintain the garden on the south-east corner of Horndean Road Recreation Ground. Work sessions 10 am, second Monday of each month, contact 01243 371486

Friends of Hampshire Farm Meadows: A conservation group holding monthly work parties all year round at Hampshire Farm Meadows, a 42 acre area of open space in North Emsworth. Contact hfmfriends@gmail.com

Friends of Nore Barn Woods: Work sessions: 9.30am-12noon, second Saturdays of each month. Tools, coffee and biscuits provided, bring gloves. Meet at shore end of Warblington Road. Contact Roy Ewing 01243 370705

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust: Holds monthly talks between September-March, plus weekly wildlife walks and nature notes. Contact www.hiwwt.org.uk

Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association: Protects and conserves the wildlife and natural environment of Slipper Mill Pond for the benefit and quiet enjoyment of the public. Contact: Jo Greenfield (Chair) 01243 371134 info@smppa.org.uk, www.smppa.org.uk

Political Representation

Editor: *Due to Local Government Devolution and Reorganisation the periods that our elected representatives will be in office are provisional.*

Havant Borough Council (HBC) - Emsworth Ward (3 seats)

Grainne Rason (Green Party) (2024 -2028) c/o Havant Borough Council, Civic Centre Road, Havant, PO9 2AX. 07584 168545 grainne.rason@havant.gov.uk

Reuben Mychaleckyj (Green Party) (2024 – 2027) address as above Email: cllr.reuben.mychaleckyj@havant.gov.uk Mobile: 07528 688227

Charles Robert (Green Party) (2024 – 2026) address as above Email: cllr.charles.robert@havant.gov.uk Mobile: 07722 961475

Hampshire County Council – Emsworth & St Faith's Division (1 seat)

Lulu Bowerman (Conservative) (2021 – 2026) 101 Havant Road, Emsworth PO10 7LF. Contact 07738 289842, lulu.bowerman@hants.gov.uk

Chichester District Council – Westbourne Ward (1 seat)

Roy Briscoe (Conservative) (2023 -2027) Bumblebee Cottage, Duffield Lane, Woodmancote, Westbourne PO10 8PZ. Contact 07877 070591. rbriscoe@chichester.gov.uk

Chichester District Council – Southbourne Ward (2 seats)

Oona Hickson (Liberal Democrat) (2023 -2027) Five Acres, Prinsted Lane, Prinsted, Emsworth, PO10 8HS Contact 01243 379964 email: ohickson@chichester.gov.uk

Tracie Bangert (Liberal Democrat) (2023 -2027) 209 Main Road, Southbourne, Emsworth PO10 8EZ. Contact 01243 375782, tbangert@chichester.gov.uk

West Sussex County Council – Bourne division (1 seat)

Andrew Kerry-Bedell (Liberal Democrat) (2021 – 2025) Drifters Reach, Drift Lane, Bosham, Chichester, PO18 8PR Contact: 07899 741939 andrew.kerry-bedell@westsussex.gov.uk

Members of Parliament

Havant (including Emsworth):
Alan Mak, (Conservative) House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. Contact 02394 212298. alan.mak.mp@parliament.uk

Chichester (including Southbourne and Westbourne):
Jess Brown-Fuller (Liberal-Democrat)
jess.brownfuller.mp@parliament.uk
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Police and Crime Commissioners

Hampshire
Donna Jones (Conservative) (2024 -2028)
www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk

Sussex (West and East)
Katy Bourne (Conservative) (2024 -2028)
www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk

Sport & Social Clubs

Badminton club: Friendly badminton club, for all abilities. 8pm-9.30pm every Thursday. Bourne Leisure Centre, Southbourne. First evening free. Contact carolbaptist@aol.com

Bourne 55 Archery Club. Based at the Bourne Leisure Centre, Southbourne PO10 8PJ. We offer beginners courses twice a year, the next one starts on Sunday 25 September, 10 - 12 for 5 weeks. See website for full details - www.bourne55.com/

Circle Dancing: 2.30pm-4.30pm, second Sunday of month. Westbourne Parish Hall, Westbourne Road, Westbourne. Contact Jane Richards 01243 378531

Emsworth Bowling Club: Plays April to September plus bridge/cribbage October to March and other social events. Jubilee Recreation Ground, Horndean Road, Emsworth, Contact Martin Roberts 02392 412759 www.emsworthbowlingclub.com

Emsworth Bridge Club: 7pm-10pm, every Tuesday evening, Emsworth Sports & Social Club, 43 Havant Road. Contact 01243 376037

Emsworth Chess Club: 7.30pm, Thursdays. Emsworth Sports & Social Club, 43 Havant Road. Contact: Phil Pinto Tel. 07500 413686 mail@emsworthchessclub.co.uk, www.emsworthchessclub.co.uk

Emsworth Cricket Club: Contact emsworth.play-cricket.com

Emsworth & Havant Homing Society: Contact admin@kdwebsolutions.com, www.ehhs.kdwebsolutions.com

Emsworth Sailing Club: 55 Bath Road, Emsworth. Contact 01243 372850, membership@emsworthsc.org.uk, www.emsworthsc.org.uk

Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club: Quay Mill, The Quay, South Street, Emsworth. Contact 01243 372523, secretary@emsworthslippersc.org.ukm, www.emsworthslippersc.org.uk

Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club Radio Sailors: 10am-12noon, Thursdays, and 10am-12noon Sunday (winter only). Contact John Galyer 07971 827995, 02392 355745

Emsworth Sports & Social Club: 43 Havant Road. Contact the Steward 01243 376037, www.emsworthssclub.co.uk

Listing your community group

Please notify the editor if you wish details of your group to be added to this page (voluntary, church, charitable, community, not-for-profit groups only).

Please notify editor if your group entry needs to be amended. David Harris, Editor,
email: editor.theems@outlook.com

icons from www.flaticon.com